

WARRIOR NEWS

JANUARY 2016



UNITED IN CHRIST

ROMANS 15:5



OUR MISSION

Equip young people to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by providing an excellent, Christ-centered education.

FROM THE DESK OF SCOTT ERNSTMEYER

“Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” -Psalm 106:1

#WeAreWarriors

Those members of our Warrior Family connected to social media will recognize the hashtag “WeAreWarriors.” It is becoming more and more common to see this expression getting used as friends of the Lincoln Lutheran community share and celebrate some of the amazing things God is doing through our students and alumni. Celebrating who we are as Warriors in Christ is one simple way to give thanks and acknowledge the goodness of God and how he is at work in our midst.



My wife Sara and I recently had the opportunity to prayerfully consider a call to serve a church and school in South Florida. It was a true joy to see the amazing ministry God is doing in another part of the country. Both ministries have important work to do and are blessed with team members who love what they do. Ultimately, I felt there was still work to accomplish in my current call at Lincoln Lutheran.

Our visit to Florida provided some wonderful perspective as parents. Sara and I are blessed with daughters in grades 10, 7 and 5. Their spiritual, social and academic development is very important to us and is at a very crucial stage. Selfishly, we want them to have the best opportunities possible through middle and high school. It was very clear to us as parents that the Lincoln Lutheran experience was what they need.

It is easy to take things for granted when we are around the Warrior ministry for a long time (nearly 19 years for me). Lincoln Lutheran has always been focused on improvement and providing the strongest opportunities we can for the students and families we serve. We don't have all the shiny bells and whistles. We don't have an endless list of offerings. We don't win state championships in every activity every year. But, we do have a faith community that is committed to Christ and doing the right things in the right way to benefit our students. We really do have a wonderful Christian family.

The “package” that Lincoln Lutheran offers our family is so much stronger than the education one might find in many other areas of the country. When I started to evaluate the quality and care of our staff, the blessing of our theology offerings, our use of educational technology, the quality of our activities, the commitment to educational rigor and the facilities we have available for ministry - the opportunities for our daughters in South Florida paled in comparison.

Psalm 106:1 says it so much better than I ever could, “Praise the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!” Sara and I would like to publicly and boldly “give thanks to God” for this ministry we call Lincoln Lutheran. It is a HUGE blessing to our family and there isn't any other place I want my girls to be!

I look forward to rolling up our sleeves together and working to accomplish the work God puts in front of us. There is ministry to do...there are lives to be changed...praise be to God!

#WeAreWarriors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Ernstmeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Scott Ernstmeyer, EdS

Executive Director LLSA & LEF

Thankful parent of 2 current and 1 future Warriors

FIRST SEMESTER IN REVIEW

AUGUST 2015



The beginning of the school year is always filled with excitement from the first day of school jitters to the 6th grade retreat at Camp Carol

Joy Holling. We were blessed with 298 students in grades 6-12. It was truly a great start to the 2015-2016 school year. Five new teachers and an administrator joined the Warrior family. These servants were installed at the first chapel of the school year.

The annual Booster Bash took place August 21st on a beautiful summer evening filled with celebration of upcoming fall sports and activities. Our volleyball and football teams scrimmaged, other fall sports were introduced, and the marching band, cheerleaders and Blue Angels performed.

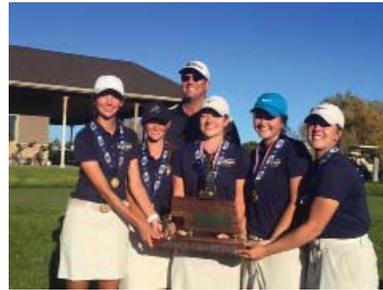
SEPTEMBER 2015

On September 10th we celebrated Grandparents Day by inviting all our grandparents/grandfriends to attend an afternoon event with us. We welcomed over 175 grandparents. They enjoyed fellowship with other grandparents and then ended their time worshipping with their grandchild at Chapel.



During the week of September 21st we celebrated Homecoming. This year's royalty were Kate Staab and Luke Hamann. Many people joined us for the tailgate party at Nebraska Wesleyan University on September 25th. During the football game we honored our distinguished alumni.

OCTOBER 2015



The season of Fall is about change-from warm summer into cool fall and the beautiful fall colors. During the month of October we were

in full swing with activities that included athletic events as well as fall music concerts. On October 14th, over 85 area students visited Lincoln Lutheran to participate in our 5th grade visit day. This special day provides an opportunity for each student to meet our middle school teachers and see first-hand what it is like to be a Warrior.

NOVEMBER 2015



The month of November is filled with many things to be thankful for. Our drama department performed "All Shook

Up" during the weekend of November 13-15. The students spent numerous hours preparing for this event that showcased their God-given talents.

DECEMBER 2015



The month of December is always very busy. Our students were involved in activities and music concerts. At Lincoln Lutheran, we stop and celebrate the miraculous birth of our

Savior Jesus Christ. During December we take time to serve our community through our Middle School Service Day and our Student Council sponsored Giving Tree. We are blessed to have the opportunity to openly celebrate the birth of Jesus.

CURRENT STUDENTS

ELLA CANEVA CLASS OF 2020

I mainly go to Lincoln Lutheran because I get to express my faith in everything I do. I get to have a religion class, and if I'm not in religion, the class I am in prays before class starts, and we also have a time to worship. I get to learn about my Lord and how to spread His Word.

I also like Lincoln Lutheran because I feel like I am a part of a family. I know mostly everyone and a lot of people know me. The teachers and other faculty members are so kind and they make Lincoln Lutheran feel very safe. The teachers make sure we understand everything we learn by using various methods. We get to use our imaginations, learn life long skills, and learn communication skills.

I definitely recommend joining this Christian based family Lincoln Lutheran has formed!



JAKE KILLHAM CLASS OF 2016

Lincoln Lutheran is a place where students can openly share their faith with one another and strengthen their faith through the Christian teachings interwoven into the curriculum. Being a student in a small school makes it very easy to create bonds, not only with other students, but with teachers, faculty and coaches as well. When it comes to sports, it is very fun to go out and compete with your friends. Lincoln Lutheran is broadening the variety of sports that are offered, making it easier for people with lots of different talents to be able to participate in some form of an extracurricular activity. The memories that are made at this school in sports and the classroom will stick with me forever.

At the end of the day, what I like about Lincoln Lutheran is the fact that every day when I come to school, I know that I am safe in my faith and able to learn alongside all of my friends through this amazing Christ-centered education.



2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD - CRAIG ERNSTMEYER

Craig Ernstmeyer is a 1988 graduate of Lincoln Lutheran Junior High. "Lincoln Lutheran helped me to see Jesus is part of my every day. Lincoln Lutheran brought Sunday morning and Jesus into my week. It also taught me hard work and giving it your best. It provided that firm foundation that would be leaned on as I got older. Finally, it prepared me for life because my vocation as a Church Worker would not have happened without the impact and influence of John Roeber as well as Don Duitsman, Mike Breckel & Paul Leckband."



2015 YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD - PIPER (MARSH) PORRAS

Piper Porras is a 1999 graduate of Lincoln Lutheran High School. "It has helped me to keep God first and foremost since He is my foundation, my strength, my Creator and the One who can see beyond my circumstances. Christ has given me my talents and therefore He gets all of the glory and honor for the successes I've been blessed to experience. I also believe that the school promotes faith in action, which is something I've tried to always keep integrated in my adult Christian life."



ALUMNI

CHRISTIAN BARTELS – JUNIOR HIGH ALUMNI 1991

I graduated from UNL with a degree in Chemical Engineering and am currently the Engineering Manager at the Cargill corn processing plant in Blair, NE. I am also an Assistant coach for the boys basketball team at Concordia Omaha.

My favorite memories of Lincoln Lutheran revolve around people. My favorite teachers were Mr. Breckel and Mr. Roeber. Please do not misunderstand, at the time, “favorite” might not be the word I would have used to describe them at that time. As a little 7th grader, I was probably scared of both of them. Their classes and practices were hard. By the time I got to 9th grade and moved to public school after that, I started to realize how much I had learned from their high expectations and high standards. Some of their often used catchphrases still come to mind 25 years later.

When I think about my time at LL and my involvement at Concordia, I see very clearly the value of Christian schools. The standards are higher and the education is better. However, more importantly, faith, prayer, and the gospel are openly practiced and offered. If only one kid or parent comes to know the Lord through being exposed to the ministry at a Christian school, it is worth it!



ASHLEY (CHAVES) COFFEY - CLASS OF 2002

After graduating from Lincoln Lutheran I attended UNL where I earned my Bachelors in English (Film Studies) with minors in History and Political Science. I had the opportunity to work on several political campaigns while in college and after graduating I moved to Washington, DC to continue working in politics/government. I began working at the Department of Commerce, first as a Confidential Assistant and then as the Deputy White House Liaison. I left the Department of Commerce to work at the White House in the Office of Presidential Personnel, where I recruited political appointees for the National Security agencies. It was an incredible experience, I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to serve my country at such a young age!

After working in DC I spent a year in Omaha working at a law firm, as their Human Resources Manager. During that time I met my future husband who was in graduate school on the East Coast, so I packed my bags and moved to New York City. There I worked for Bridgewater Associates, the world's largest asset manager, in their Employee Relations Department. After getting married in 2011, we moved to New Jersey and I had the opportunity to work as an HR Manager at the Toys R Us Corporate offices. Talk about a fun place to work!! Derek and I had always hoped to live closer to family before starting our own so when an opportunity came for Derek to work in his hometown, we decided to move across the country to sunny California.

In 2014 we welcomed identical twin boys, Jack and Hunter to our family & last month, our daughter, Adeline was born. I am blessed to be able to stay at home with our three kiddos, all currently under the age of two!! I also own my own business, working with Drs. Rodan + Fields.

The last thirteen years have been a whirlwind - I have had the opportunity to work in some amazing places, I've moved across the country and back again, and I've met countless new friends. Even though I've moved away from Lincoln, I truly miss it & remember very fondly my time at Lincoln Lutheran. Being able to grow up in such a loving and nurturing Christ-centered environment was really the biggest gift my parents could have given me at that age. I still cherish friendships that began in those hallways and I'm grateful for the wonderful teachers and coaches who challenged me to grow both academically and spiritually. I pray my children are able to experience the same quality, Christian education.





FROM THE DESK OF LLOYD WAGNITZ DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The start of a new calendar year is a time for reflection as we look back on the past year and look forward to the year to come.



As I look back on 2015 I realize how blessed I am! Our move from Grand Island was completed in June, my family has made the adjustments of a new home in the Lincoln area and God has blessed me with a new family at Lincoln Lutheran.

The year was filled with building relationships with supporters of Lincoln Lutheran, completing education classes in planned giving, and raising funds for the operations of the school as well as for the Science Education Renovation Project.

I have met many of you this past year and my goal is to meet many more of you throughout 2016! If you would like to discuss the process of gift planning, become a member of the Legacy Society, or discuss how you can invest in Lutheran education, give me a call or send me an email to set up an appointment.

May God bless you and your family in 2016 and into the future!

Lloyd W. Wagnitz
402-467-5404

lwagnitz@lincolnlutheran.org

Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program is a blessing to Lincoln Lutheran. Since September 2010, Thrivent Choice has totaled over \$77,000 of financial support for our ministry!

Eligible members must designate their available funds by logging in to their account at www.thrivent.com or calling Thrivent Financial at 800-847-4836. Funds for 2015 must be designated by March 31.

Please consider Lincoln Lutheran when designating Thrivent Choice funds. Questions may be directed to our Development Office at 402-467-5404.



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE UPDATE

This year marks the 8th year that we have had an Annual Fund Drive. To uphold the leading edge in education and satisfy demands of the school, the Lutheran Education Foundation must raise a total of \$115,000 through the Annual Fund Drive and another \$30,000 through the Give To Lincoln Day this year for costs not covered by tuition.

To date we have raised 85% of the Annual Fund Drive! Want to help us reach our goal?

GALA - APRIL 8, 2016

Our annual Gala is approaching quickly! We are anticipating a sell-out - reserve your seat now. We are taking donations for silent and live auction items.

If you use your Propelr card to buy tickets or on the night of the Gala, Propelr will donate 1% of the amount back to Lincoln Lutheran! To find out more about the Propelr card go to www.propelr.com

GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY - MAY 26, 2016

The 5th annual Give to Lincoln Day is coming in May. The Lutheran Education Foundation will participate again. On this day of online giving every donation designated to the Lutheran Education Foundation will count toward claiming a share of a matching pool of funds!

Watch for more details.

SCIENCE RENOVATION PROJECT

Construction will begin in April 2016 and be completed by the beginning of the 2016-17 school year! We have currently raised 89% of the \$618,000 project cost through grants and donations. Other foundation grants have been submitted and we are awaiting decisions on funding.

GIVE ONLINE

Donations are accepted online at www.lincolnlutheran.org/lef



LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society is an honorary group of donors with a passion for Lutheran education that have designated a gift to the Lutheran Education Foundation to provide a future for Lutheran education. Those who have chosen to be recognized have done so for the purpose of encouraging others to discover their legacy of generosity.

Legacy Society Members: Anonymous, Clarence and +Loretta Bangert, +Hattie Bartels, +Ray Becker, Dennis and Joan Brink, Mark and Kathie Divine, +Barbara Endorf, +Dennis Engelbart, +Deverne and Ruth Ernstmeyer, Scott ('89) and Sara Ernstmeyer, Mark and Sara ('83) Fahleson, +Marie Francis, +Lilly Frost, Don and Carmen Grant, +Gloria Hankel, +Dan and Marj Heibel, Tom and Denise ('73) Hertzell, Gwendell Honensee, Neal and Patricia Koch, Cliff and Julie Kreizel, +Arnim and Florence Kumm, +Wayne and Wanda Lillich, +Don Lohrberg, +Alvin Norden, +Margaret Paschold, Robert and Karen Ravenscroft, +Ivabelle Repschlaeger, Chris and Angie Schaedel, Dale and Florence Schmidt, Nathan and Sarah Schmidt, +Mary Schudel, Paul Schudel, Mike and Susan Staab, +Gladys Stinson, Lloyd and Susan Wagnitz, Randy and Charlene Wilcox.

+Members called home to be with their Lord
(class year of LL Alumni)

Despite having been married over 7 years, having our first child and one of us being an attorney, as of 2001 we didn't have a will. Why? We didn't have much in the form of financial assets, so we had not given much thought to it. But starting a family causes one to ponder such important issues, so we went about the task of preparing an estate plan to provide for our family and decide where our assets would go when we die. It causes one to ask important questions such as, "What do you value?" and "What is your legacy?"

Certainly there are many worthy causes out there, but Lutheran education is very important to us. Sara attended Trinity Lutheran Elementary in Lincoln as well as Lincoln Lutheran Junior High, and her late father was instrumental in getting Lincoln Lutheran High School started. Our own children (3 daughters) would attend elementary school at Christ Schools in Lincoln, and would eventually attend Lincoln Lutheran Middle and High Schools. Our family has benefited from the Christ-centered education at Christ and Lincoln Lutheran, and we could think of no better way to provide these opportunities for future generations than to designate the Lutheran Education Foundation in our estate plan.

Our Lutheran schools in Lincoln exist today because so many dedicated Christians were touched by the Holy Spirit to give their time, talents and treasures to make it a possibility. But shouldn't that possibility be available to all, regardless of their financial means? Our Lutheran schools are now largely tuition-based, and our schools do not have the benefit of tax revenues available to public schools. What a blessing it would be for our Lutheran Education Foundation to have an endowment large enough to ensure that a Christ-centered education is available to all and for our schools to have the facilities and resources to educate the next generation of Christian leaders.

Ask yourself—as we did—what would God have you do with the assets He entrusted to you during your lifetime? No matter your age or station in life, now is the time to get your estate plan in place (or updated) and to contemplate what God is calling you to do with what He has given you. Recognizing the Lutheran Education Foundation in your estate plan and becoming a Legacy Society member demonstrates your recognition of the value of Christian education in the Lutheran tradition and is a tremendous legacy to leave.

Mark & Sara Fahleson
Lincoln, NE





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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2016

4/8 - Gala

May 2016

5/15 Graduation

5/26 Give to Lincoln Day

DID YOU KNOW?

There are a total of 1864 alumni, 980 junior high alumni and 884 high school alumni. Our alumni reside in 39 states and at least four other countries.

Lincoln Lutheran has 23 teachers with a total of 176 years of teaching at our school.

Our current enrollment of students represent 14 different churches.

Kate Staab received the 2015-16 Believers and Achievers Award. Kate is one of 48 Nebraska high schoolers to receive the award this year and is the 2nd Lincoln Lutheran student to receive this award!

Warrior News is published for Lincoln Lutheran alumni and friends. For additional copies, or to notify us of address changes or personal updates contact us at, 402-467-5404 or development@lincolnlutheran.org

LINCOLN LUTHERAN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Scott Ernstmeyer, Executive Director

Lloyd Wagnitz, Director of Ministry Advancement

Matt Heibel, Principal

Joel Brase, Assistant Principal & Activities Director

Julie Frederick, Guidance Director