

# WARRIOR NEWS

JANUARY 2017



## TRANSFORMED

DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

ROMANS 12:2



## 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

“Transformed”

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” -Romans 12:2

One semester down...one to go! What a blessing to have the opportunity to serve in the Warrior Ministry each and every day! Our journey this year has centered on the theme “Transformed” from Romans 12. There is so much going on in the world around us that tugs and pulls for us to conform and follow the wrong path. We are reminded by Paul in Romans 12:2 as Christians we are to be transformed and avoid the patterns of the world.

Later in this publication, two of our alumni share their Lincoln Lutheran story and the impact they experienced because of their time in the ministry. Their stories, while very much their own, have a lot of similarities with so many of our past students. I had the chance to visit with a member of our third high school graduating class (2000). He and his wife have two young children and are starting to consider elementary school options for their oldest. As an alum, he was a product of K-12 Lutheran educational system in Lincoln. She grew up in a small town that didn't have a Christian school option. It was amazing listening to her give a testimony about what she sees in her husband because of his faith-based education and how she would love to have that for her children.

Time in our Lutheran School is truly transforming! It molds - it shapes - and the Spirit is at work all along the way. Students that spend a significant amount of time on our campuses are different. So many of them are making an amazing Kingdom impact right where God has placed them.

I look forward to many more wonderful conversations with our alumni in the months and years to come! I am so excited to see how God uses our extended Warrior Family to be a blessing to their communities and the world!

Thank you for your continuing support of Lutheran Education!

#WeAreWarriors



Scott Ernstmeyer, EdS  
Executive Director LLSA & LEF  
LLJHS - Class of 1989



# FIRST SEMESTER IN REVIEW

## AUGUST 2016



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 68 sixth graders and 330 students total in grades 6-12. It was truly a great start to the 2016-2017 school year. Four new teachers joined the Warrior family. These servants were installed at the first chapel of the school year.

The annual Booster Bash took place August 19th, on a rainy summer evening. Despite the rain, celebrations of upcoming fall sports and activities took place. Our volleyball team scrimmaged, other fall sports were introduced, and the marching band, cheerleaders and Blue Angels performed.

## SEPTEMBER 2016

On September 8th we celebrated Grandparents Day by inviting all our grandparents/grandfriends to attend an afternoon event with us. We welcomed over 200 grandparents. They enjoyed fellowship with other grandparents and then ended their time worshipping with their grandchild at Chapel.



During the week of September 19th we celebrated Homecoming. This year's royalty were Rachel Garbe and Allen LaCroix. Many people joined us for the tailgate party at Nebraska Wesleyan University on September 22nd. During the football game we honored our distinguished alumni Craig Volzke and Liz Vostrez.

## OCTOBER 2016



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 19th, over 60 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 2016



The month of November was filled with many things to be thankful for. Our high school drama department performed “Peter

& Wendy” during the weekend of November 18-20. The students spent numerous hours preparing for this event that showcased their God-given talents.

## DECEMBER 2016

The month of December is always very busy. Our students were involved in activities and music concerts. At Lincoln Lutheran, we stopped and celebrated the miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Annually in 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

## CHRISTA GRIMPO CLASS OF 2021



To me, the best thing about Lincoln Lutheran is the gift of a Christian education. I often take it for granted, having never gone to a public school. But when I really think about it, I realize how much of a blessing it is to be surrounded by other Christians each and every day.

I am so thankful to be able to talk freely about my faith every day and in every class, not just Religion class. Each class starts with a prayer or devotion every day, which is something I really love about Lincoln Lutheran. In addition to being able to learn about God, we begin every class by praying.

Being able to learn about Christ every day is the most important reason that I attend Lincoln Lutheran.

## JOEL STENNETT CLASS OF 2017



My name is Joel Stennett, I am a senior at Lincoln Lutheran. I chose to attend Lincoln Lutheran because a Christian education is important to me and to my family. When we visited Lincoln Lutheran for the first time, it was obvious to us that God was a part of everything that happened here. Public schools cannot offer me that opportunity.

At Lincoln Lutheran, I am able to participate in a number of activities that I would not be able to do at other schools. I play football, basketball and soccer and am a member of Student Council and National Honor's Society. I try to work with the Community Outreach Team when I have time. I love being able to do so many things here at Lincoln Lutheran.

I have never regretted attending Lincoln Lutheran. It is amazing to be a part of a school that integrates our Christian faith into all of the curriculum. The teachers and faculty are great and they truly care about the students. Every day challenges me to be the best person I can be, both academically and spiritually.

## 2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD - DR. CRAIG VOLZKE

Dr. Craig Volzke is a 1991 graduate of Lincoln Lutheran Junior High. "I absolutely loved the classmates, teachers and coaches I had at Lincoln Lutheran. Middle school, high school and college can be some of the most challenging times we have during our walk with God. The journey doesn't end there either. Like anything, if you want to be great at something, you have to put in the time and practice. Build a relationship with Jesus by developing skills through studying His Word, discipling others and having daily quiet times. All Jesus wants is our heart, give it to Him and see what happens!"



## 2016 YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD - LIZ VOSTREZ

Liz Vostrez is a 2001 graduate of Lincoln Lutheran High School. "I was prepared by a competitive academic program. I was prepared academically for college and gradate school. In fact, there were some courses that were more difficult in high school than college! I loved the one on one special attention from teachers and administrators. That extra special touch is something that stays with you well into adulthood."



# ALUMNI

## STEWART HAKENEWERTH – JUNIOR HIGH ALUMNI 1994

After my last year at Lincoln Lutheran, I attended Lincoln Southeast and went on to graduate from the University of Nebraska with a BS in Business Administration. I'm currently the Lead Illustration Analyst with Computer Sciences Corporation in Lincoln. I also serve on the Trinity Lutheran School Board where my oldest son, Will, is in Pre-Kindergarten.



It is somewhat of a difficult task for me to put my feelings into words when describing how I feel about my time at Lincoln Lutheran. It was many things to me; a place that taught me how to have confidence in what I believe as well as giving me the opportunity to meet many lifelong friends along the way. I got the opportunity to be involved in many activities and experiences that might not have been there if I would not have attended Lincoln Lutheran. I will be forever grateful to my parents and teachers at Lincoln Lutheran for giving me life-long memories I will always cherish.

As the years go by and I get farther away from my Lincoln Lutheran days, I see the importance of Christian education more clearly. Allowing impressionable teenagers the ability to grow in the presence of the Lord and have His Word taught to them every day is a gift. I pray that my boys will have the same opportunities to experience what I did and create lasting memories of their own.

Lincoln Lutheran will always be my home!

## AMANDA (KISKER) HEINS - CLASS OF 2009

After spending six years of my education on 56th Street, I graduated from Lincoln Lutheran in May 2009. Following a short stay at Dana College, I found myself beginning sophomore year of college in Seward and transferring to Concordia University, Nebraska. I know now God had my ultimate well-being in mind, as I realize today the impact Lutheran, Christ-centered education had on me both at Lincoln Lutheran and throughout my time at Concordia.



While completing my studies, I served as a captain of the volleyball team, a member of the business club & worked in the university's marketing office. In May 2013, I graduated from Concordia with a B.A. in Communication Studies and a B.S. in Marketing and Business Communication.

Determined to get out on my own and find a new adventure, my attempts went nowhere (literally), and after several out-of-state interviews, I took a job in Lincoln doing marketing for a software company. Once again, God had different plans (for which I am quite thankful today), and in November 2014, I married my husband, Ben, in Lincoln, where we currently live. After several years of working in the world of software technology, another door opened, and I took the position of Concordia Fund Coordinator at my alma mater in August 2015. Today, I serve in this same role as a member of the development team within the advancement office. I manage our student Phonathon, oversee the university's annual giving society and work on all direct mail appeals and e-appeals. While development may not be a field I saw myself entering, it has allowed me to grow my skill set and make an impact in other areas close to my heart – one of which being Lincoln Lutheran.

Joining the Lutheran Education Foundation in August 2016, I feel blessed knowing that I bring a young alumna's outlook and opinions to the board. While serving in this capacity, I realized several things about Lincoln Lutheran that I appreciate more as an adult. The first is a reflection of the tremendous blessing it was to me as a student. Looking back, I value the opportunities a Lutheran education provided me. I thrived in the small classroom setting, benefited from the personal relationships with my teachers and loved the fact that I didn't have to pick just one activity to be involved in. At Lincoln Lutheran, I could be a student, play in the band, compete in several sports and serve on the student council. The teachers also cared about me as a person and wanted to see me become successful. They used the love of Christ in the classroom to tie together all the subjects and aspects of education. Attending Lincoln Lutheran was something that I never really thanked my parents for at the time, but I now understand the sacrifices they made in order to send me to school at LL, and I appreciate it today on a much larger scale.

**FROM THE DESK OF LLOYD WAGNITZ  
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Another year in the books! Each year seems to go by quicker, I have been told that is normal when you get older!



In 2016, I visited with many people and heard numerous comments of how important Lincoln Lutheran is and how the school impacted their lives. God has truly blessed the Lincoln Lutheran ministry and He is present daily.

If you would like to visit about how to impact Lutheran education and make a difference in the lives of young men and women, give me a call and let's talk!

May God bless you and your family in 2017 and beyond!



Lloyd W. Wagnitz  
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lwagnitz@lincolnlutheran.org

**SCIENCE RENOVATION PROJECT**

The fully funded project was completed in time for the first day of school in August 2016!

Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program is a blessing to Lincoln Lutheran. Since September 2010, Thrivent Choice has totaled over \$91,000 of financial support for the Lincoln Lutheran ministry!



Eligible members must designate their available funds by logging in to their account at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or calling Thrivent Financial at 800-847-4836.

**Funds for 2016 must be designated  
by March 31, 2017.**

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

**GALA - MARCH 17, 2017**

Our annual Gala is approaching quickly! We are anticipating another large attendance. Purchase your tickets online at [www.handbid.com/auctions/transformed-gala](http://www.handbid.com/auctions/transformed-gala) or contact Kristin Bennett at 402-467-5404 to reserve your tickets. **Deadline is March 3, 2017 to reserve or purchase your tickets!**

This year the silent auction items will be bid on with mobile devices (phones, IPads, etc.) instead of writing bids on sheets of paper. Students will be at the event with mobile devices for attendees that do not bring their own device. After you place your bid, it will show on your device that you are winning the item. When you are outbid you will receive a notification that you are not winning the item and it gives you the opportunity to bid again. No more running up to the auction tables every few minutes to check and see if you are still the winning bidder!

We recognize there is some apprehension about adding mobile bidding to the Gala. Our goal is still for the evening to be fun social evening for everyone. We are in the process of training staff and volunteers on the software and will have people available at the Gala to assist anyone that may have questions or need assistance. Watch for more details.

**GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY - MAY 25, 2017**

The sixth 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!

Lutheran Education Foundation has been working hard on a new funding model. Exciting news coming soon!



# 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 and encourage others to discover their legacy of generosity.

Legacy Society Members: Anonymous - 2, Kevin and Julie Bachman, Clarence and +Loretta Bangert, Dennis Bartels, +Hattie Bartels, +Ray Becker, Beulah Bedke, 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, Donald and Carmen Grant, +Gloria Hankel, +Dan and Marj Heibel, Tom and Denise ('73) Hertzell, Gwendell Hohensee, Mark and Deb Kisker, Neal and Patricia Koch, Cliff and Julie Kreizel, +Arnim and Florence Kumm, Kenneth and Barb Leymaster, +Wayne and Wanda Lillich, +Donald and Lawana Lohrberg, +Richard Middendorf, +Alvin Norden, +Margaret Paschold, Robert and Karen Ravenscroft, +Ivabelle Repschlaeger, Chris and Angie Schaedel, Allan and Sandy Schmidt, Dale and Florence Schmidt, Nathan and Sarah Schmidt, +Mary Schudel, Paul Schudel, +Henry and Josephine Schwalm, Mike and Susan Staab, +Gladys Stinson, Steve and June Taege, Lloyd and Susan Wagnitz, Kent and Sue Weishahn, Randy and Charlene Wilcox.  
+Members called home to be with their Lord  
(class year of LL Alumni)

During our 18 years of involvement in Lutheran education, it amazes us to watch the sacrifice and commitment of parents to give their kids a Christian education. To watch parents pick up extra hours at work or drive that "older" car so they can continue to foster the spiritual light they see in their kids. Watching the daily examples of how God works in our schools, from baptizing a Vietnamese student to watching a school come together while dealing with the sudden loss of a fellow student or a parent.

After watching our kids grow and develop into young adults from their experiences at Messiah and Lincoln Lutheran, we have designated the Lutheran Education Foundation as a beneficiary in our estate plan. We can't think of a better gift than seeing future generations benefit from Christian schools with adequate resources for good teachers and facilities.

Since the Legacy Society was started back in 2014, 46 donors have either donated a portion of their estate or designated a future gift to the Lutheran Education Foundation to provide a future for Lutheran education. While this is a great start we have more work to do.

Prayerfully consider leaving a portion of your estate to carry on the good works of those that had foresight to start our Lutheran schools and those stewards who support the cause today.

Our four children (Peter, Jacob, Kate and Katrina) attended elementary school at Messiah Lutheran as well as Lincoln Lutheran. Peter, Jacob and Kate graduated while Katrina is currently a sophomore. Each kid found their own niche and flourished in their own way, but teachers and staff that cared about their personal spiritual development, small class size and ability to participate in multiple activities are the items they talk about the most.

Recognizing the Lutheran Education Foundation in your estate plan and becoming a Legacy Society member demonstrates the priority and value of Christian education. We could not think of a better legacy to leave on behalf of our family for future generations of students in the Lutheran school system.

Mike & Susan Staab - Lincoln, NE





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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March 2017

3/17 - Gala

### May 2017

5/21 Graduation

5/25 Give to Lincoln Day

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our current enrollment includes a record number of 6th graders - 68

Early registration for 2017-2018 school year until March 15, 2017

Tuition increase for the 2017-2018 school year is the lowest increase since 2001

98% of Lincoln Lutheran students go on to attend a two or four year institution

*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](mailto: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