

21 Days of Prayer



christ lincoln
A LUTHERAN MINISTRY

GROWING IN HIS WORD

Thank you for joining us...

as we devote the next 21 days to prayer! Christ has been the center of unity, growth, and influence for nearly 70 years. Now, we have much to be thankful for as God has grown our congregation from eight individuals to the nearly 2,000 weekly worshippers. At Christ Lincoln, we are excited to grow our shared faith together. We are one unified church whose growth in numbers gives a snapshot of our spiritual growth. We grow through our Worship, Bible studies, Family Ministries, Child Care and School. We continue to seek to be an influence in our community and world through our outreach to others on local, national, and international levels. As we look to the new year and its new possibilities, we pray for God's guidance in all that we do as individuals; but even more so as a congregation. In all things, we connect one another to Christ, and together grow in His Word.

Luke Schnake
Pastor

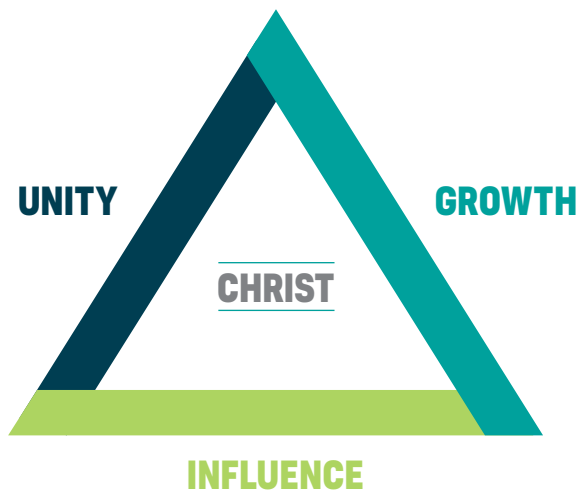
Jeff Scheich
Pastor

Aaron Hutton
Pastor

Mike Milbourn
Chief Operations
Officer

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Christ Lincoln
Schools, Principal

CHRIST AT THE CENTER



Everything you do creates an impact somewhere else that you cannot see. It's a part of the big picture that God is putting together. What starts at the center connects to fill the space created by possibility.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This booklet is your invitation to pray over the course of the next three weeks for the Congregation.

Each day in this prayer guide, we've included one or more Scriptures to get your focus on God and what He has to say to you through His Word. You are also provided with questions to think about or actions to take. You can close your time with a prayer for Christ Lincoln, the building project and a specific part of our Church family.

To begin — there is no special formula to talk to God. Set aside a dedicated time. A time when you can leave the outside world with all its distraction and focus on prayer.

God's Blessing on your 21 day journey.

DAY 1

Center of Unity



⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

In Acts 2:42 we find that the early Christians were “devoted to the fellowship”. They were connected with one another. One of the values we have here at Christ, as we take our next steps in unity and with growth in our faith, is being devoted to one another, and caring for one another. These are a reflection of how God is with us, having created us to be in relationship with Him.

How have you experienced fellowship at our church?

How is God calling you today to connect to the people of our church family?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for our church and school staff.



⁹ God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

1 Corinthians 1:9-10

How has God called you into fellowship?

How has God used our congregation to demonstrate His faithfulness to you?

What, for you, is the hardest part of this verse to follow?

Today consider what gifts you have that can bring unity and help others feel connected.

What past, or present, division do you personally need to lay at the foot of the cross today?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for our congregation.



¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Corinthians 9:10-13

When has God's generosity exceeded your expectations? Thank Him.

When has God's generosity given you exactly what you needed? Thank Him.

Think of a time that your generosity blessed others. How did you feel? How do you think the person that was blessed felt?

Think of a time that someone's generosity blessed you. How did you feel? How do you think the person that blessed you felt?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church.
- Pray for the volunteers.



¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace and be thankful.

Colossians 3:13-15

Who helped you learn about forgiveness?

Who do you need to forgive?

Are you peaceful today? What steps do you need to take to find tranquility?

We are called to be thankful, what are you thankful for today?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for the Lay Leadership Board.



¹ How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

Christ Lincoln has undergone many changes that have been good and pleasant as they bring us toward unity.

Do you know your baptism date and your godparents?

Are you a godparent? Reach out to your godchildren and remind them of the love God has for them.

Take time to remember important events in your life as a member of God's body.

PRAY

- Pray today for church family.
- Pray for our varied worship services and communities.
- If you have godparents or godchildren pray for them.



¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:12

How did you learn what love is?

What do you think about when you see “God lives in us”?

What is your love language: words of affirmation, acts of service, receiving gifts, quality time, and/or physical touch?

How can you use your language today to reach out to someone?

¹ As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

What do you think it means to be a prisoner for the Lord?

How can you bring unity into your church, family, life?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for our pastors and all those who have taught you about love and peace.



⁹ “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:9-15

What steps do you need to take today “to remain in his love”?

How are you experiencing joys, as a gift from God, through His people at Christ Lincoln?

How will you, “love one another” today?

Jesus has called you his friends. How can you respond to him calling you friend?

PRAY

- Pray today for church.
- Pray for all the leadership.



The Scriptures tell us that ⁵² “Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with both God and man”.

Luke 2:52

God has created us to grow. We grow physically by eating, drinking and sleeping; we grow spiritually by reading/studying God’s word and by receiving His sacraments.

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

In what way(s) has God used scripture to grow and equip you?

What steps do you need to take today to grow and be equipped?

How can you raise up others and equip them?

PRAY

- Pray today for our congregation.
- Pray for our Sunday School and Mid-Week Ministry. Pray for our Youth and all those who prepare, teach, and help them.



¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

What are ways that you can grow in grace and knowledge?

For you, how does growing in grace enhance growing in knowledge?

Recall a time when grace was not involved in growth; how did that work?

Today thank God for the grace and knowledge that he has given you?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for the teachers and students and their families at our school and childcare.



² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

How easy is it for you to “conform to the pattern of this world”?

What will you do today to be transformed by God's will instead?

PRAY

- Pray today for our congregation.
- Pray for Christ Lincoln Schools' kitchen and our café workers.



⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,[a] ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Colossians 1:9-10

When you think of joining Jesus on His Mission so that you may live your life pleasing to Him, what do you think He might be asking you to do next so that you and others may grow in their faith?

PRAY

- Pray today without stopping for someone on your heart. Reach out to them, if possible and let them know.
- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for small groups and fellowship groups.



² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Romans 5:2-6

Can you think of a time when you suffered and that brought about perseverance in you that developed a characteristic you know has contributed to the hope you now share with others? Maybe a time when something was hard for you to learn and you had to spend extra time practicing which developed the characteristic of hard work or integrity.

PRAY

- Pray today for church family.
- Pray that our congregation grows into serving Lincoln, our nation and our world.



¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

List three ways God has equipped you to serve through your spiritual growth?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How are you using these gifts?

Reach out to a pastor or leader today to volunteer in a role to best use your gifts.

PRAY

- Pray today for our congregation.
- Pray for our Bible study groups.



⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

Who has led or encouraged you in your growth?

Can you honor them by being an encouragement like they were to you?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for our custodians, grounds keepers, and all those who volunteer to maintain and beautify our church.



¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

How has God uniquely gifted you to influence others?

What opportunities for service or influence might God be calling you to do today?

PRAY

- Pray today for our congregation.
- Pray for those attending Christ Lincoln in the future.



- ¹² The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
¹³ planted in the house of the Lord,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
¹⁴ They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,

Psalm 92:12-14

A psalm. For giving grateful praise.

- ¹ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
² Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
³ Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his[a];
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100

We often hear the words “bloom where you are planted”. Consider why God planted you here at Christ Lincoln. What kind of blooms have you witnessed in others planted near you right here at Christ Lincoln? Tell them what you have noticed about how our community flourishes because of them.

Do any of these lyrics strike you as important for you given the words of Psalm 100?

Someone needs the light you have.
Let your light so shine.
Jesus is the light that burns inside your soul.
Love like you are not scared.

PRAY

- Pray today for our church family.
- Pray for all those in welcoming and guest services.

DAY 17

Center of Influence



³⁵ “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:35

With this short verse reread it stressing a different word or words each time.
Does it change the meaning for you with a different emphasis?

BY this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
By THIS everyone will know you are my disciples, if you LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
By this EVERYONE will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
By this everyone will KNOW that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
By this everyone will know that YOU are my disciples, if YOU love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are MY DISCIPLES, if you love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, IF you love one another.
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you LOVE one another.

Try this activity with one of your favorite verses or lyrics.
We are his disciples. How will we show that today?

PRAY

- Pray today for our congregation
- Pray for all those who provide music for our celebrations both vocal and instrumental as well as soundboards.



²³ I in them and you in me — so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:23

We are told to pray continually in unity.

If we truly prayed continually how would the world be different?

How does it make you feel when you think of “I in them and you in me”?

PRAY

- Pray today for our church.
- Pray for the guests sitting beside us in worship, near neighbors and neighborhoods in Lincoln.



^{100:5} For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100:5

If you spend the whole of your one wild and beautiful life investing in many people's lives telling them of your relationship with God, God simply will not be outdone. Passionately serving Christ alone makes us the loving servant to all so invest in those God put in your path.

Make a list of those you can invest prayer and time in so that they too may know the LORD IS GOOD AND HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER — for them.

Who can you pray for today?

Who can you tell about the Lord's goodness and love in your life?

PRAY

- Pray today for our congregation.
- Pray for our sound and technical crews.



¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16

In Arrested by Wonder the author states, “THANKS is an action and rejoice is a verb. While I may not always feel joy, GOD asks me to give thanks in all things because HE knows that the feeling of joy begins in the action of Thanksgiving. Joy is a flame that glimmers only in the palm of the open and humble hand.”

If you were to take action today to be thankful for all GOD has given you and announce it palm open what would that look and sound like?

What parts of that can you do today? Tomorrow? Next week?

PRAY

- Pray today for church.
- Pray for our neighbors and future members.



⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:8-9

¹⁷ He will take delight in you with gladness, with his love he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over You with joyful songs.

Zephaniah 3:17

How do you feel when you realize God delights in your gladness?

What hope do we get when we know that he calms our fears with his love?

As you consider your next step, please pray that you might listen and follow what God is prompting you to do for today and for future generations.

PRAY

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- Pray today for our church family.
 - Pray for our pastors, leaders, elders, and all who lead our congregation.

CONNECTING
PEOPLE TO
CHRIST,
AND TOGETHER
GROWING IN
HIS WORD.



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A LUTHERAN MINISTRY

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