



Warrior

NEWS

January 2022
Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Letter From Lincoln Lutheran	1
First Semester in Review	2
Alumni News	3 - 4
Senior Spotlight	5 - 6
Communications and Enrollment	7
Teacher Awards and Homecoming	8
Lutheran Education Foundation	9 - 10

January 2022

Dear Warriors,

Writing the year “2022” feels strange. Another year has passed, and it was a doozy. And yet, as we begin a new year, I can’t help but believe we’ve all been stretched in ways that God can use to His Glory in the days ahead.

A good friend recently shared with me the content of an article he read. It suggested we can’t look back and see what we’ve “lost” with hopes of going back to “how it was.” Rather, as we look towards the future, it is imperative we find a different stride and celebrate the new opportunities we’ve been “forced” to discover as a result of a world-wide pandemic. We can’t change the past and we really shouldn’t try and replicate it in the present, but we can get excited about the future!

It has been a joy to meet with many friends of Lincoln Lutheran over the past few months as we’ve launched the early stages of a new Comprehensive Campaign entitled “**Embark.**” A resounding theme from those conversations is the idea of “legacy”. In the context of Christian Education, what legacy are we building and leaving for future generations of Warriors?

More than 60 years ago, men and women laid an important foundation to this ministry we call Lincoln Lutheran. Their work left a legacy we celebrate today through a healthy and thriving middle and high school ministry.

Like so many of our alumni, I was blessed to experience this place as a student. It impacted the course of my faith and my life. Sara and I have also been blessed by this ministry through the lives of our three daughters. The gift is tangible. Our family is better because of the education they’ve received and we are so thankful for the many mentors that have poured into our girls.

As our youngest daughter Jordan wraps up her final 17 months on this campus, Sara and I are left with a simple question: What role do we play to help to ensure this ministry remains strong and healthy for generations to come? What will be our legacy? How do we intentionally “pay forward” this gift we call Lincoln Lutheran so it can eternally benefit future families.

For us, it means ongoing annual financial support. However, it also means joining the 75 current members of the Lutheran Education Foundation’s “Legacy Society” by supporting this important ministry through our estate plans. I hope and pray a portion of our “legacy” can be found through the impact we can have on the future of Christian Education in Lincoln for generations to come!

Thank you - to all those who have made and continue to make support for the students of Lincoln Lutheran a priority in your generosity planning.

What about the future? How might God use each of us to build a legacy? To Him alone be the Glory!

God’s Richest Blessings in 2022 and beyond!



Scott Ernstmeyer, Ed.S.
Executive Director-LLSA & LEF
LLJHS - Class of 1989

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2022

3/18 27th Annual Blue and Gold

May 2022

5/15 Graduation

5/26 Give to Lincoln Day

ADMINISTRATION

Scott Ernstmeyer, Executive Director

Matt Heibel, Principal

Julie Frederick, Guidance Director

Joel Brase, Assistant Principal and Activities Director

Lloyd Wagnitz, Director of Ministry Advancement

MISSION

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

VISION

Lincoln Lutheran will be known as a welcoming Christian community that provides students with a Christ-centered education through dynamic programs, dedicated professional staff and an environment conducive to learning in order to develop prepared and responsible servants in God’s world.

TAGLINE

Lincoln Lutheran - Christ-centered Learning for Life

2021–2022 THEME VERSE

“Act, Love, Walk”

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

– Micah 6:8

First Semester in Review

August 2021



Forty-six 6th graders joined Lincoln Lutheran; bringing the total to 303 students in grades 6-12.

September 2021

The “Coming Home Tailgate” party preceded the football game serving a meal to over 250 Warrior fans.



Homecoming week was filled with dress up theme days, Powerpuff Sunday, football game, and the dance.



“See You At The Pole” was organized and led by the Student Council.

October 2021

The 26th Annual “Warrior Classic Golf Tournament” was on October 1st and raised the largest amount of funds in 26 years! There were 40 teams, 46 sponsors, and 41 alumni who golfed or sponsored the event.

Seventy-five 5th graders attended the annual 6th Grade Visit Day and stayed together with their school classmates.



November 2021

Lincoln Lutheran’s Volleyball team won the Class C-1 State Championship!



Lincoln Lutheran High School Drama Department performed “Rosie the Riveter” and the Middle School drama performed “40 plays in 40 minutes”.



December 2021

Fall Academic All-State Winners for Fall Sports by NSAA & NCPA: Mallory Schmidt, Rachael Volin, Kaitlyn Hamilton, Noel Steinbauer, Brady Franzen, Logan Lebo, Raegan Holle, Katelynn Oxley, Max Bartels, Aden Zager, Alex Halvorsen & Quinn Trutna.

The annual Christmas concerts were held at Messiah Lutheran Church on December 12.



The concerts were in front of a live audience this year instead of videoing for online viewing.

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

Alumni News

2021 Distinguished Alumni Award - Rodger Hergenrader



Rodger Hergenrader attended Lincoln Lutheran from 1968 – 1970. He graduated from Lincoln High in 1973 and the University of Nebraska – Lincoln in 1977, majoring in finance and economics. Since then, he has built an impressive 30-year career in underwriting and risk selection, becoming an accomplished leader in the life insurance industry. He is currently the chief underwriting officer for MassMutual.

Rodger and his wife Debra have been married for 44 years. They have two adult children, Sara and Jeffery.

Rodger started his career as a Life Underwriter for General Agency Distribution of life insurance, disability income, and business overhead expense coverage. From there, he joined the Amoco Life Insurance team for three years before leaving to work his way to becoming Senior Vice President Underwriting at Lincoln Benefit Life. During his time at Lincoln Benefit Life, Rodger developed an underwriting trainee program that allowed manageable growth of underwriting staff from four underwriters to 36, developed Internal Vendor Auditing and BGA Chargeback Program, and developed one of the insurance industry's first Preferred Risk Underwriting Program.

Rodger spent a few years at Ash Brokerage as an Executive Vice President Underwriter and moved to M Financial Group & M Financial Life Reinsurance where he implemented and developed M Financial Group's proprietary underwriting platform (eCase Exchange - Prism), automated underwriting process (AUW), educational and training opportunities for firm members and case managers, implemented Protective Value Studies utilizing underwriting and actuarial expertise, expanded the professional underwriting resources with the director of medical underwriting, where he later served as the Chief Underwriter of M Life Reinsurance and liaison with member firms.

After serving for a year as President of '55 Consulting Group, Rodger now works for Mass Mutual Insurance Company as Head of Life Underwriting where he is responsible for leading Mass Mutual's multi-channel distribution markets and the company's risk assessment and underwriting operations and delivery of strategic initiatives.

Rodger served on the ACLI Risk Selection Committee from 2013 until 2016, is a member of the Association of Home Office Underwriters, a member of Indiana Life Underwriters Association, and past president of Nebraska Home Office Life Underwriters Association.

His fondest memories of his time at Lincoln Lutheran include a band trip to North Platte and all the band and vocal concerts. He volunteers his time to Big Brothers & Sisters, the American Red Cross, and the United Way. He believes his teachers at Lincoln Lutheran gave him a strong foundation of knowledge and spiritual experience to build upon as he encountered life's crossroads. He would tell the next generation of Warriors to accept the changes that happen in life. "Be brave enough to learn from success and failure and to show respect and love to every one of God's children."

Alumni News

2021 Distinguished Young Alumni Award - Michael Peter



Michael Peter graduated from Lincoln Lutheran in 2005. After graduation, he earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Creighton University in 2009.

From there, he started his career in multi-family housing and development. Over the years, he has built and owned hundreds of affordable and market rate housing units across Omaha, as well as commercial retail businesses.

Mike married his wife Shannon in 2010 and they have two children, Victor, 3, and Willa, 1.

For 15 years, Mike and Shannon have been part of a nonprofit resource organization that works to alleviate poverty in vulnerable neighborhoods. Mike serves on their Advisory Board as a senior project manager and is currently building 60 units of affordable housing for them, which he considers one of his greatest accomplishments.

He is also a volunteer for English as a Second Language and US Citizenship. Mike's work stems from his love of building combined with his commitment to live out his faith. "I like building both things and people", says Mike. "God is constantly reminding me of His commandments to love Him and His people. At Lincoln Lutheran, my teachers taught me not to be afraid of difficult projects because with God, all things are possible."

Mark your calendars - August 6, 2022

Alumni Gathering

Honoring the following classes

Junior High Class of 1972 - 50 years
Junior High Class of 1982 - 40 years
Junior High Class of 1992 - 30 years
High School Class of 2002 - 20 years
High School Class of 2012 - 10 years

Email received after Alumni Gathering in 2021:

The alumni gathering was meaningful for me for a couple reasons. First, because reconnecting with friends I haven't seen for so long is a special thing. It's rare but awesome. Secondly, being around my old classmates, being in the classrooms and remembering those special years of life have reminded me of the goodness of God in my life. The incredible gift that Lincoln Lutheran was to me and my family will not be forgotten. God has used it in my family's life in mighty ways, many of which I probably don't even realize. Praise the Lord for his goodness!

Lincoln Lutheran impacting the world!

2,364 Lincoln Lutheran alumni
living in 48 states
and at least 6 countries

Here's a brief story from that day. Literally about two hours after being in Mr. Bassett's classroom at the alumni gathering, remembering our younger years, my classmates and I are down in the Haymarket talking and about to order food when who else but Mr. Bassett and his wife come strolling by the patio where we're seated. Jeremy points and shouts, "There's Mr. Bassett!" We all run over to give hugs and end up talking for 45 minutes there on the sidewalk with them. What are the odds?!

Zach Willet - Class of 2000

Senior Spotlight



Noel Steinbauer

SENIOR - CLASS OF 2022

Imagine a school where you can talk freely about your faith with your teachers and where each class starts off with a prayer. A place where teachers encourage students to start devotion groups and offer their room up. A school where hurting students are quickly met with a person eager to pray over you. Lincoln Lutheran possesses each one of these ideals and many more. I love that at Lincoln Lutheran each teacher is not only eager to help students learn but also to help encourage them wherever they are in their faith journey. I have so enjoyed getting to know my fellow classmates and other students in the building. Lincoln Lutheran offers so many avenues for students to build lasting friendships through sports, music, tutoring programs, student council, and classes.

My favorite part of Lincoln Lutheran is our religion classes. This school has greatly prepared me to combat questions others may have about Christianity, along with helping me grow in my faith. Lincoln Lutheran has prepared me for college by offering dual credit courses and classes that challenge me to grow. I have made many close friends due to our small class sizes. Likewise, the teachers have listened and cared for me through whatever troubles I was enduring. As I finish my final year at Lincoln Lutheran, I plan to continue my education in college. I plan on majoring in biology on the pre-med track and with intention of PA school.



Shanae Bergt

SENIOR - CLASS OF 2022

Reflecting on my experiences at Lincoln Lutheran, I am very grateful for the positive impact it has given me. Lincoln Lutheran provides a Christ-centered education that has allowed me to grow in my faith. I have been beyond blessed by the faculty at this school. I feel comfortable communicating with all of my teachers and always feel supported. I have developed incredible friendships that I will be able to carry with me in my future. Lincoln Lutheran provides amazing academic and athletic opportunities. I have been shaped in extraordinary ways by the community in and surrounding the school.

This school has helped me feel prepared and ready to take the next step in my life. I look forward to continuing my education at the University of South Dakota. Thanks to this community; I am confident that I will find success in my studies and life. I am excited for the opportunity to live out my faith. I can't thank Lincoln Lutheran enough for everything it has done for me.



Josh Duitsman

SENIOR - CLASS OF 2022

My time at Lincoln Lutheran has helped me grow in my faith and become closer to God. There have also been so many opportunities to explore my interests and help prepare me for life in the real world. The teachers have always been so helpful and have taken the time to truly teach me the subject; to understand it completely. Whether it's taking time after or before school or working around our schedules, they always put in the extra effort. Thanks to the opportunities and education that I have received at Lincoln Lutheran, I am prepared to take on the next step in my life, and that next step is to attend Nebraska Wesleyan in the fall to study Biology and play Quarterback on the football team.

Senior Spotlight



Raegan Holle

SENIOR - CLASS OF 2022

My name is Raegan Holle and I am part of the class of 2022 at Lincoln Lutheran. When thinking back on my first year as a 6th grader, I never would have imagined what the next several years would hold. Lincoln Lutheran has not only provided me with the education and skills necessary to further my education, but it has also served as a community. The faculty and staff at this institution work to create relationships with each of their students, and they are willing to go the extra mile to ensure that we are successful. They truly care about each individual at Lincoln Lutheran. The Christ-centered education has encouraged me in my faith walk and brought countless like-minded friends and role models into my life. Next year, I plan to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University where I will be continuing my athletic

and academic careers. Lincoln Lutheran has provided a foundation of values that I will carry with me for the upcoming years at NWU.



Katelynn Oxley

SENIOR - CLASS OF 2022

Lincoln Lutheran has provided me with plenty of opportunities to help me excel throughout high school. It has also prepared me to live a Christ-centered life as well as prepared me for college. With amazing teachers, I have grown as a student and in faith. The education is amazing and I am learning so much every day. Lincoln Lutheran has also helped me grow as a student-athlete. While being a three-sport athlete I have had amazing coaches and mentors in all three sports that I play. Not only do they make the sport enjoyable, but I have learned so much from them. They have provided me with amazing experiences that I will never forget. What I plan on doing next year is attending DePaul University. I am undecided on what area of study I want to go into. I will also continue my volleyball career there.



Adrianna Rodencal

SENIOR - CLASS OF 2022

Lincoln Lutheran has been my second home for the past seven years. I have grown not only in my academics but also in my faith, something that I am very thankful for. This school is on the smaller side but that doesn't limit what Lincoln Lutheran is able to do. Their teachers are always looking to help their students learn more and then help those students apply it in their lives. As a sixth grader I went in only knowing a few kids back from preschool at Messiah, I was the only kid that had graduated from Christ Lincoln elementary. Even still, my sixth grade teachers, Mr. Wieting and Mrs. Stumpf, helped me, and others, become united with the rest of my class. I have created bonds with many of my classmates that will be there for years to come. My teachers have not only learned my name, but they know me; they have

been there to help during times of stress, and also participate with the rest of the class in moments of joy.

On top of Lincoln Lutheran's academics, I have been a part of their extracurriculars for the seven years. I've been a part of many teams; Volleyball, Speech, the Play, and Track and Field. My coaches have also played a big part in my life, in guiding my faith through sports and more. They set their athletes on a path of success, putting God first while creating and honing each individual's abilities. From my teachers to my coaches, I have been able to grow in many areas. They have guided me and helped me figure out what I want to do once I graduate. I am planning to go to Concordia University - Nebraska and major in Biochemistry; there I will also continue my Track and Field career as a Bulldog. As I go on to a different path in my life, I am continually grateful for what Lincoln Lutheran has done for me and how well they have prepared me for what is to come.

Communications and Enrollment



It has been officially one year since I started as the Director of Marketing and Communications. Most people probably don't realize that Lincoln Lutheran received a sizable grant that is subsidizing the school's marketing and

and communications efforts. Thanks to this funding, we've made great strides in developing and implementing a strategic plan to expand the number of families we serve. Some of our marketing successes so far include:

- A 60 percent increase in organic Facebook reach
- A multi-media campaign promoting Discover Lincoln Lutheran Night, which resulted in a 40 percent increase in attendance from prior years.
- Exceeding our goal of increased enrollment from Lutheran Schools of Lincoln elementary schools

And that's just the beginning. There's another multi-media campaign on the horizon which I have no doubt will reap even more rewards.

This year, we've leveraged social media, direct mail, radio, newspaper and tv to tell the community about Lincoln Lutheran. These are all valuable vehicles for **delivering** a story - but really, it all starts with **HAVING** a great story to tell - and the teachers and students here deliver every single day! I don't have to look far to find worthy stories of academic, athletic and musical achievement, service to others, and most importantly, Christian values in action - which makes it my pleasure to be a "Warrior storyteller".

If you have a story about Lincoln Lutheran that could inspire others or promote our school in the community, please email it to Peg at paschwege@lincolnlutheran.org



Blessings in 2022! Proverbs 16:9 tells us that "in his heart, a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." May God's path bring you happiness in the New Year.

In spite of the craziness around us our students continue to flourish and families around the greater Lincoln area continue to recognize the value of a quality education where Christ is in every classroom! It might be more important now than it ever has been.

To begin our 2021-2022 school year, we welcomed 45 new 6th graders and continued a high level of retention with grades 7-11. Over the course of the first semester, we continued to grow as families made the decision to join the Warrior family. We have had several new families join us since the start of school. In fact, our 6th grade class currently sits at 48.

One very exciting addition to our enrollment cycle as we look forward to 2022 has been the addition of an "Early Enrollment" period for new families. We offered new families the opportunity to save on the registration fee if they enrolled by January 10th. This has allowed us to better forecast our incoming 6th grade class and make appropriate plans to best serve these amazing families! God's path continues to be laid before us as we are very happy to report that we currently have had 67 6th grade families take advantage of this opportunity! Again, families continue to see the value in a quality, caring, Christian education!

There remains room for more! God is good! Lincoln Lutheran is a very special place! I am now officially a Warrior parent (6th grader) too and I have to tell you my daughter is thriving! If you know of a family we can serve please feel free to let me know. I would love to share my personal experience of moving to Lincoln, praying for God to place a path before me for both myself and my family, and having Lincoln Lutheran be that perfect fit! Early enrollment might have come and gone, but we are still visiting with several families as they prayerfully consider a school fit for their son or daughter. I am here to help!

Here's to continued blessings in 2022!

Contact Joel at jjanecek@lincolnlutheran.org

Teacher Awards and Homecoming

Lincoln Lutheran is blessed to have a great teaching staff with many years of service to Lincoln Lutheran.

Sean Wieting was named the Nebraska District Church Worker Middle/High School Teacher of the Year.



Nathan Bassett received the Nebraska History Teacher of the Year.



Sue Ziegler was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association Girls High School Coach of the Year.



Homecoming week included many activities, dress up days, football game and dance.

Dress up days were Hawaiian Day, Jersey Day, PJ Day and Western Day.



Events included Powder Puff, Pep Rally, football game and dance.



Lutheran Education Foundation

From the desk of Lloyd Wagnitz,
Director of Ministry Advancement

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2022!

Another year in the rear view mirror and another year older...

As I get older, I tend to look back on fond memories of family, ponder the journey God has led and is leading me on, and appreciate activities I enjoy doing.

In LL presentations and communications, I “crunch” a lot of numbers in an attempt to highlight the generosity of the Warrior family. But truth be told, it is not the numbers that get me out of bed each day. I get up each day because of my family and the over 300 students who attend Lincoln Lutheran every day! My time at Lincoln Lutheran is something I enjoy very much and each day I look forward to the opportunities to serve.

In the near future, you will hear more about Lincoln Lutheran **Embarking** on a journey.

My wife and I have joined the journey and invite you to participate also. If you would like to hear more about the journey and discuss the many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of young men and women, give me a call and let's chat!

God's Blessings to you and your family.

Grateful for each of you,



Lloyd W. Wagnitz
Director of Ministry Advancement
lwagnitz@lincolnlutheran.org
402-467-5404

Thrivent Choice

Lincoln Lutheran has been receiving Thrivent Choice funds since September 2010. It is an easy way for eligible Thrivent Financial members to designate funds to a charity of their choice.



**2021 funds must be designated
by March 31, 2022**

The amount of Thrivent Choice funds designated has declined in recent years. Make sure to take advantage of designating your funds to the charity of your choice.

Eligible members must designate funds by logging into their account at www.thrivent.com or calling Thrivent Financial at 800-847-4836.

Did you know Thrivent members can do two Thrivent Action Team projects each year? Give us a call at 402-467-5404 if you would like to use an Action Team project for Lincoln Lutheran.

There are many ways you can create donations through personal activities.

Do you like to shop with Amazon? If you do, your Amazon shopping through AmazonSmile, donations will be generated to your charity of choice. Check it out at <https://smile.amazon.com>

Another method of generating donations to a charity with your shopping is TAGG. Download the app and see how easy it is! More information at <https://togetheragreatergood.com/>



Lutheran Education Foundation

BLUE AND GOLD - March 18, 2022

Yes, the Gala is now the **Blue and Gold!**

“Gala” has become a common name for many events. The name change is to put focus on it being a Lincoln Lutheran event.

Plans are underway for an in-person event at the Embassy with the goal of being the largest one in the 27 years of the event!



Stay tuned for more details.

We would like your help. Do you have ideas or donations for the Live and Silent auctions? Give us a call!

Purchase tickets online at
<https://handbid.app.link/LEF2022>

or contact Kristin Bennett at 402-467-5404 to reserve your tickets.

Give to Lincoln Day

Give to Lincoln Day is a day of online giving for charities sponsored by Lincoln Community Foundation. The Lutheran Education Foundation has participated in all ten years the giving day has existed.

Last year was our largest in three areas:

- Funds raised - nearly \$100,000
- Match monies earned - nearly \$7,000
- Number of donors participating - 125

Lutheran Education Foundation finished 15th out of 457 participating charities in amount raised.

Give to Lincoln Day 2022 is May 26, 2022!



Legacy Society

75 members

\$1,590,064.77

received from 31 members
called home to be with the Lord

\$4,828,376

future planned gifts from 43 members

Legacy Gift Impacting the Future!

In December 2021, an estate gift was received from a long time supporter, parent of four alumni, and former school board member of Lincoln Lutheran.

Through his planning, he designated an estate gift for the Warrior Scholarship Endowment. His gift will add over \$9,000 to the amount of needs-based scholarships given to students attending Lincoln Lutheran **every year!**

Donations with tax benefits

- Donate appreciated stock and avoid capital gains tax.
- For those who are 72 or older, you are required by law to start taking required minimum distributions (known as RMD). However, you have the option to donate up to \$100,000 of the required minimum distribution from your retirement accounts each year to a charity of your choice. By donating your RMD, it becomes a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The amount you donate is excluded from your taxable income, reduces your medicare premium, and counts toward all or part of your required minimum distribution for the year. Giving to a charitable organization through a QCD is an easy process.

Contact your financial advisor for guidance.



Non Profit Org
US Postage
Paid
Lincoln, NE
Permit No.1657

WARRIOR NEWS

402.467.5404 | LincolnLutheran.org