

# The Word on the (F) Street



## Lincoln School of Ministry, a Great Opportunity

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I love spring. I love all the warmth, colors, and the opportunities that come with it. I also love that it brings the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of the Lincoln School of Ministry. The Lincoln School of Ministry (LSOM) was created two years ago in partnership with Jacob's Well, with the sole purpose of equipping people for ministry. It is here to help each and every one of us, no matter how mature or immature we are, to prepare for our calling in ministry. That can mean that LSOM serves as a platform to prepare you for ongoing schooling, giving you a quick foundation. It could mean that it helps you to live out your call as missionary overseas, or help to make disciples in the neighborhood. It is our belief as a church that some of the great warriors for the Kingdom of God are yet to come from this neighborhood. We believe that all are called to make a difference, and it matters not what challenges were faced. With some growth and experience, God can use that to bring hope and healing to others.

What I really love about this trimester is that it is a fun ten weeks, taught by a variety of teachers, covering a variety of classes. Like a spring garden filled with an assortment of colors, so is the curriculum. In fact, this is the one trimester that is open for anyone to partake in one of the classes - to give it a try - for \$25 per class.

### The March – April Classes are:

March 28 – Leader's Relationship with God (Bill Thornton)

April 4 – Leader's Relationships in Ministry (Bill Thornton)

April 11 – Leader's Relationships in the Home (Bill Thornton)

April 18 – The Ministry of Presence (Bill Thornton)

April 25 – Understanding Poverty and its Effects (Beth Heerspink)

\*All classes are taught at the Redeemer Building starting at 7:00 p.m.

\*Application for the LSOM can be downloaded from the "F" Street Neighborhood Church website.

## Announcement!

Beginning April 7, coffee and bagels will be available at 9:30 a.m. Volunteers will clean-up at 10:15a.m. You are welcome to stay down stairs after clean-up, but the coffee and bagels will not be available after 10:15a.m. Thank you.



*A Place of Acceptance and Direction  
"F" Street Neighborhood Church*

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Lincoln, NE 68508*

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### Calendar for April 2019

2nd: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ

3rd: 6pm Youth Group; 6:30pm Lenten Service

4th: 6:30pm FoodNet

5th: **Happy Birthday Rose Marie Bridger-King**

7th: Sunday Service; **Happy Birthday Michella Reed,  
Roy Wyrick**

9th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ; ;

**Happy Birthday Xander Mailand**

10th: 6:30pm Lenten Service

11th: 6:30pm FoodNet;; **Happy Birthday Seannetta Hartley**

14th: **Palm Sunday; Happy Birthday Ali Kurtz**

15th: **Happy BirthdayRenae Robertson**

16th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ

17th: 6pm Youth Group; 6:30pm Lenten Service

18th: 6:30pm FoodNet

20th: **Happy Birthday Chad Triplett**

21st: **Easter Sunday**

23rd: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ

24th: 6:30pm FoodNet

28th: Sunday Service

*Please keep us up to date on birthdays & anniversaries! If you aren't sure that we have your information, talk to Jane Mailand or simply fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to her. In addition, if your address, phone, or email has changed, let Jane know.*

## Giving

Last year we saw a great increase in our giving. We are so grateful to God and to those who willingly and obediently gave to help "F" Street Neighborhood Church continue in ministry. Looking at the factual increase and adding a little faith, the elders increased our budget to reflect this trend. How-

ever, so far this year, financial giving has not been as strong. This is not a panic - button statement, but an informational one to let you know of this reality. This is to encourage and request that you consider giving to "F" Street Church so that we can continue to use what God has given to us, to bring him glory.

Proposed Monthly offerings	\$5,500
February Monthly offerings	\$3,513
Total for the first 2 months	\$3,217

If all of us prayerfully and intentionally work towards giving a little more, we can overcome this short fall. An additional \$5 a week, given from everyone, for two months, and we would make up that difference.

As we approach our five-year anniversary this June, I am thrilled at where we are as a church. With the help of others and the provisions from God, we have been able to accomplish some great things. I see more and more opportunities and possibilities for engagement in our neighborhood, and for life change in the individuals God is allowing us to serve. I hope that you see this as well, and will continue to support the work here at "F" Street Church with your engagement, prayers and giving.

## Easter Offering, Youth Director

The most effective time to share the good news of Jesus with people is before the age of 18. One of the greatest areas of need in our neighborhood is to care for kids who have experienced trauma, and who live with social, financial, and relational poverty.

When we read our bibles, we see that Jesus taught us to value children, and even to become like them in our faith. James tells us that true religion is to care for the widows and the orphans, those who are often the most vulnerable in our neighborhood.

That is why one of the primary goals in 2019, for "F" Street Neighborhood Church, is the development of our youth programs. To support this, we intentionally went out to raise some money from some outside donors for the position of Youth Director. Meg Arbogast was hired in January to work about 15 hours a week, and give attention to this important area of ministry.

Meg has been working to start Journey Group (Formerly Action Packed Parable Time), to be held during our Sunday morning services. This will offer bible teaching and fun activities for kids 5-5<sup>th</sup> grade. She has also taken over the leadership of our Wednesday Nights Youth Ministry program for junior and senior high students. It is my hope that the development of these ministries is only the beginning of her work, and of our caring and equipping the kids in the neighborhood with the truth and love of Jesus.

It is with this in mind, and as we prepare for Easter, that we are asking each of you to consider giving to support the work that Meg is doing. We ask that you consider the Youth Ministry at "F" Street Neighborhood Church a priority. We will take a special offering on Easter Sunday, April 21 (although you can give at any time indicating that it go the Youth Director Position). We currently have raised \$6000 of the \$9,000 for her position for

the year. This was a step of faith, and not something that we put in the budget. That is why we have given this a special offering place in the yearly giving calendar. And we are asking the members of "F" Street Neighborhood Church to give above and beyond for this great opportunity.

## Lent

We are still in the midst of the Lent season. After a great start with the Ash Wednesday Service, we are now showing a series of informational and inspirational movies. On April 3, we will have a night of worship and prayer. Hope you will consider joining us for some of these opportunities.

**Wednesday, March 27:** *I Can Only Imagine*—this recent film is the story of the lead singer of Mercy Me, and the song that came from his heart and launched his career.

**Wednesday, April 3:** Special service of prayer and worship

**Wednesday, April 10:** *Risen*—a journey with a Roman soldier who witnesses the death and resurrection of Jesus.

**Wednesday, April 17:** *The Passion*— This powerful movie is a great display of the sacrifice and suffering that Jesus experienced on our behalf.



## ATLAS of Lincoln: April Update

**Brody M. Van Roekel, Director, Atlas: Lincoln**

A few weeks ago, I went to an appointment with a client named Ron. He has had a tough six months. His wife passed away, he feels alone, and can't seem to get ahead. This appointment was to apply for disability. I sat with him for both interviews and said maybe five words over the two hours of grilling and examination. I felt bad for my silence, but didn't feel it was my place to say anything in the process.

As we walked back to my car, I mentioned that I was sorry for not really saying anything. He said it was more than all right and the fact that I was there meant so much to him. Ron said the support of having someone familiar present helped a lot through the whole process. I think this is part of what it means to support people in the hard places of life. We don't have to have any answers, we don't have to know how to respond, often, we don't even have to say anything. Presence is powerful. Jesus was and is present with people who are hurting and we need to be as well.

A quarter into the new year and going strong. Our big push right now is training mentors! We had a great workshop last week where we equipped a bunch of new mentors to walk intentionally with people who come through our doors. I feel like a new client reaches out every week. It's an awesome thing to have happen, and I'm hoping to get new mentors involved and supporting these dear people.

I had the opportunity to share about Atlas with the First Street Bible Church, as well as the elder board at Middlecross Church this month. Both opportunities were amazing. Folks asked great questions, and the conversation was awesome. More people hear about Atlas every month, and the Lord continues to bless the process abundantly. Praise him for the privilege it is to serve in his Kingdom.

As is often said, the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. We are always in need of people who want to be the hands and feet of Christ by being prayer partners, mentors, and financial investors. Atlas can use volunteers with a variety of giftings. If you have a desire to serve your community through Atlas: Lincoln (whether it's multiple hours a week, or a few hours a year), there are many opportunities to do so. Contact Brody at 712.441.5403 or b.m.vanroekel@gmail.com, and let's talk about ways we can touch lives for Christ together.



## Make Arrangements Early for Church Van Rides

Tad Stryker, Elder

This is a reminder that "F" Street Neighborhood Church offers free transportation for all who need it to attend Sunday morning services.

If you want to ride the church van, please don't wait until the last minute to make your wishes known. To request a ride, call or text Tad Stryker, at 402.802.0597, by Saturday evening.

If you wait until Sunday morning to ask for a ride, we will do our best to accommodate, but cannot guarantee it.

## Update

Kayla Wilson, Team Developer: Hospitality & Discipleship

I have been encouraged to see movement in the realm of hospitality and discipleship. This gives me motivation as we develop these areas. I am thankful for the current volunteers. Yet, our hope is for more! We need more people to join our teams and meet needs. Consider the following opportunities. Please, talk to me about details!

- Youth
- Nursery
- Transportation
- Greeting
- Bagels and Coffee



Transformations  
THRIFT STORE

## Transform

CeCe Robinson, Director, Transformations Thrift Store

**Transform:** Make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance or character of.

When the idea of a thrift store, to support the on-going ministry of Atlas, was birthed, I thought most of the transformations would be in people's lives. What I didn't know is that when we got below the dirt on the surface, there was a lot of foundational things that weren't visible in the initial assessment. We knew there was "stuff", we just had no idea how much. To be honest, there have been temptations along the way to just cover some of it up and make it look nice. I mean, it would probably be ok for as long as we need it to be. The problem is that we would know. We would know that there are weak spots in the foundation; that the attractive façade was hiding a broken, not so attractive, and potentially problematic framework.

We chose to address the issues. This decision has been costly. It has required more time than we originally allotted, more money than we budgeted, and it is very messy. We are being called to move forward in faith that God truly is who we confess Him to be.

As I have been reflecting on the building "transformation," I realize God is preparing us for the work of transforming lives. It is easy to meet someone and make an initial assessment. We know that they have "stuff", but I think it is safe to say we don't know how much. Until the walls come down and we get a glimpse of what's behind the façade, we can't help to build up the foundation in the spots where it's weak. We can't provide support to a weakened framework in the appropriate places. Probably, we could get away with just acknowledging it exists and devote ourselves to putting a nicer façade on it. I mean, it would possibly be ok for as long as we need it to be. But, is that the right answer?

We would still know. We would know that there are weak spots in the foundation of their faith on which they are trying to build a new and better life. We would know that the façade was just covering a broken, not so attractive view of self-value and worth. We would know that eventually that problematic framework wouldn't be enough to sustain and protect that attractive façade.

Therefore, we must choose to address the issues. This decision is going to be costly. It's going to take more time than we have allotted, more money than we have budgeted, and it's going to be messy. We are being called to move forward in faith that God is who we confess him to be.

Thank you to all who have supported Atlas and Transformations in any way. Please continue with your prayers, sign up to be an

Atlas Mentor, volunteer at the store or support us financially. All is necessary and appreciated. Not sure how to help? Contact Brody or CeCe. We will be happy to help you get plugged in.

## Parish Nurses' Corner Barb Douglas, Parish Nurse

Greetings to My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Easter Sunday is on the 21st of April this month. That day we celebrate the greatest point of Christianity: Christ lives, and all who believe in that truth live also! Praise the Lord! He was resurrected from the dead. That means he died. Christ died a human death, just like we all must face.

Before we learned to celebrate the resurrection of Christ, death was a permanent thing that no one could avoid. Humanly speaking, death still seems to be a very permanent and unavoidable event that we all must face.

Many view death as the enemy. But is death really the enemy? When we embrace the beauty of our body-spirit-humanity, in all its complexities, perhaps we can also embrace the complex thought that death is not the enemy.

As Christians, we learn to "Live for Christ." To live for Christ is something we must learn if our faith is to be visible and believable by those around us. Scriptures and theologians say "death to self" is a necessary part of being a Christian. In fact, Jesus tells us to "take up your cross and follow me" (Luke 9:22). Jesus' popularity plummeted after that statement. Many stopped following him after that. Truly they were not able to put to death their own ideas, plans, and desires, and exchange them for his. In truth, how many of us can do that? Our true commitment to him is revealed in trials. Jesus assured us that all who followed him would suffer trials, (John 16:33). Honestly, I myself have to re-commit my life to follow his desires, his way, and be in his presence every day. I am not able to do this alone. I find I must surround myself with Christ followers, read scripture daily, and wake up asking God what his plan is for me that day.

Then the hard part starts! Am I willing to follow that direction to "take up my cross" and follow him. Admittedly, I fail many times because I'm human. That's not an excuse, it's a fact. We are all subject to failure just because we are human. But I find that the difference between Christians and everyone else is, we forgive, both ourselves and others.

Forgiveness is key to "death to self". And also remembering that death does not win. In the end, the Kingdom of God triumphs. God raised Jesus from the dead and he will raise us. Death will not have the final victory, God will, and we will share it with him.

Our bodily life reveals Jesus' life, and Jesus' life was an announcement of the Kingdom of God. He brought a radical understanding of health and wholeness that comes from being connected to God. No matter what happens in our body-spirit humanity, God never abandons us. Our troubles, disappointments, and the failures of our physical bodies all point to God at work in us. We live that reality now-everyday!

Do we grieve, as Christians? Absolutely. Do we feel loss? Keenly. Do we lose the battle for meaning because death is a part of the

human experience? A resounding NO. We pray, we follow his lead, and we leave the outcome to God, because he knows the whole story. We only know our part. But it is important to realize God knows all the parts, and it is his job to bring it all together. Praise God, I don't have to- I just believe, God has our backs! In the U.S.A. we don't, as a culture, look at death as part of life.

We are too busy fighting death with technology. More than a quarter of Medicare's budget is spent during the last six months of peoples' lives. In fact, most all medical expense is spent when people face the inevitable fact of death. We will spend all of our resources and then some, fighting death. To defeat death is everyone's goal. The good news for all Christians is - death is already defeated!

As we celebrate this Easter Sunday, please take some time to contemplate Jesus' amazing gift to us- from death to eternal life. All of it was done just for us, and its free because he paid it all

God's Blessings to each and every one of you.

Happy Easter! Happy Resurrection Day!

Your friend and Parish Nurse

Barbara J. Douglas PNFNSNC

## Community Groups

**Monday Men's Group:** 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Redeemer Bldg. Contact Tad Stryker, 402-802-0597.

**Thursday Group:** 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Keith Morrissey's home. Contact Keith Morrissey, 402-525-4897.

**Sunday Group:** 12:00-1:00 p.m. at "F" Street Church. Contact Keith Morrissey, 402-525-4897.

**Sunday Group:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Art & Kayla Wilson's home. Contact them, 402-318-4968.



"F" STREET   
Neighborhood  
CHURCH



## Experience Prayer

April 3, 2019

6:30 p.m.

Various prayer stations will be set up throughout the sanctuary of "F" Street Church. After a short time of worship together, time will be given to individually journey through the prayer stations.

Join us for cookies in the basement following your personal prayer experience



## Wisdom Literature

### Monthly Bible Reading Plan

This month, there is no commentary– but will pick up again next month. In the meantime, keep reading!

April	Psalms	April	Psalms	April	Psalms	April	Psalms	April/May	Psalms					
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	28	15	<input type="checkbox"/>	33	22	<input type="checkbox"/>	38	29	<input type="checkbox"/>	43
	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	24	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	29	16	<input type="checkbox"/>	34	23	<input type="checkbox"/>	39	30	<input type="checkbox"/>	44
	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	25	10	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	17	<input type="checkbox"/>	35	24	<input type="checkbox"/>	40	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	45
	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	
4		26	11		31	18		36	25		41	2		46