

WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY

*Join your friends at WOW
for Dinner, Fellowship and More!
5:45 -6:30 pm in Cole Hall*

12/14 Menu: Sloppy Joe and Chips
\$3 children, ages 3-12 yrs; \$4 adults; \$14 max/family

KNIT TOGETHER

Drop in at the church library 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays to learn to knit, work on craft projects, find inspiration for creative expression, and enjoy fellowship! Everyone welcome.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SCROOGE

Dickens' A Christmas Carol is a much beloved Christmas classic. Let's re-read this perennial favorite and discuss it over the Wednesdays in Advent (**Dec. 14, & 21**). It will help us awaken on Christmas morning and "chuckle till we cry." In the lounge from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** Rev. Bob Snell will lead our discussion.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Shopping for St Nick– Tonight, 6:30-8 p.m.

Join us at the Shopko Customer Service Desk (27th & Pine Lake). Please bring up to \$20 you can donate toward presents.

St. Nick Wrapping Party – Tuesday, December 13, 6 p.m.

Enjoy this night of service work for others surrounded by friends, the Christmas spirit and lots of snacks.

Reindeer Games Sunday, December 18, 6:30-8 p.m.

Time for the 5th Annual Youth Reindeer Games! Get ready for some wacky activities, including: Name that Famous Holiday Personality, an Elf Obstacle Course, wheelbarrow races, Christmas Carol Charades, Deck the Halls with Boughs of Candy, Human Gift-Wrapping, and more! Great night to bring a friend!

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Hospitalized: Pat Beams - St. Elizabeth, Ray Mitchell - Bryan LGH West, Happy Schrepf - Bryan LGH East

USHERS: Theresa Burrage, Dan Hoffman, Susan Horne, Steve Larson, Bob Michaud, Bob Morey, Carolyn Schainost, Ron Wachter, Shalla Young

DEACONS: Judy Buss, Jean McIntosh, Bob and Sally Peterson, Stuart Martens, Sydne Wirrick Knox

GREETERS: Carolyn Otte/ Judy Roper

HOSTS: Ginny Rohrbaugh/Bob and Jean Carol Murphy

ACOLYTES: Bennett Kerns/Betsy Zander

CHURCH SACRAMENTS The next communion will be January 1, 2012. Baptism will be January 8th, 2012.

Deadline for the Messenger is Thursday, December 15th.
Submit articles to marge@westminsterlincoln.org



10:30 Worship - Televised on cable Channel 13, Thursday at 12:30 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Visit us on the web: www.westminsterlincoln.org

Join us on Face book @

Lincoln Westminster Presbyterian Church

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| Westminster Presbyterian Church | |
| 2110 Sheridan Blvd Lincoln, Nebraska | |
| Ph. 402-475-6702; Fax: 475-3148 www.westminsterlincoln.org | |
| Pastor | Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald, x 110 |
| Interim Associate Pastor | Reverend Robert Snell, x 116 |
| Parish Associate | Reverend Ellen Davis, x 117 |
| Business Administrator | Cheryl Rennick, x 105 |
| Director of Fine Arts | Boyd Bacon, x 111 |
| Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts | Dr. Masako Nakamura, x 111 |
| Associate for Community Life and Growth | Tiffany Mullison, x 104 |
| Director of Children's Ministries | Betsy Guyer, x 107 |
| Preschool Director | Suzanne Schneider, x 103 |
| Administrative Secretary | Marge Tomlinson, x 102 |
| Receptionist/ Secretary | Teresa Hoover, x 101 |
| Custodians/Maintenance | Richard Gruenemeyer, Lyudmila Fomina, Tracy Hugelmann, Mehmedalija Plicanic |



*"I am the vine,
you are the branches...."*

December 11, 2011

VISIT BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP

You are invited to join in a time of hospitality and fellowship after the 10:30 a.m. worship. Cookies are provided in the Garden Room by the Deacons.

IMMEASURABLE GENEROSITY AND AMAZING GRACE

Tis the Season: the season of God's immeasurable generosity and amazing grace quickening among us grateful celebration and faithful imitation. It is the perfect season for turning in our pledges:

- pledges that make God's cause our cause;
- pledges that support God's gracious determination to restore creation and redeem humankind;
- pledges that advance God's present and coming kingdom in us, with us, and through us.

So far, 60% of our members have increased their pledges—by 5%, 10%, 20%, 50%, even 100% as they join us on our journey toward becoming a tithing church. If your pledge is not yet in, now is the time. Now is the time and ours are the voices inspired, the hands equipped, the feet empowered to hear and heed God's call to be a blessing to all peoples of the earth. Please, turn in your pledge before Christmas and help us share the message of joy to the world.

THE BIRTH OF JESUS: A TWICE TOLD TALE

Every Christmas, we remember with joy, thanksgiving, and hope the birth of Jesus. But which story of that birth do we remember? Matthew has its version and Luke has its version. The same good news, but told differently. Join us as Rev. Bob Snell leads us through two compelling narratives.

WESTMINSTER BIBLE CLASS PARLOR

Join Westminster Bible Class in the Parlor for *The Present Word* using Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Matthew. Today: "A Promise to Abraham" based on Genesis 15: 1-6 and 12-18. Greg Hershberger, leader.

CROSSROADS LIBRARY

Young adults are invited to join the Crossroads class in the Library each Sunday at 9 a.m. We are studying "Call Waiting" by Doug Wysocky-Johnson and taking part in a study leading into the holidays about "Culture of Consumerism." Contact Sarah Baltensperger (402-421-1608) or Maggie Stuckey (402-730-3823).

MEN'S TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

All men are invited to join. Come to the Parlor each Tuesday morning for food and fellowship. At 7:00 a.m., Keith Ghormley, Youth Pastor of the Zion Presbyterian Church, will do the 11th Annual reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

LAST DAY TO PLACE ORDER

Heifer International has developed the areas of emphasis that must be addressed if we are to end world hunger and poverty. Join us in the Garden Room today to purchase a gift for your family and friends this season. You can choose from goats, chickens and more! Help make a difference!"

CIVIC VISIONS & CIVIL DISCOURSE

A recent editorial in the *Journal Star* began by observing that "our national discourse has devolved to an abysmal level." Our local paper is but one voice in a nationwide chorus of concern troubled by this decline. What are its consequences? What can be done about it? We in the church have a role to play.

These are issues that will be explored throughout January and into February in conjunction with our annual Community Conversations. Governor Dave Heineman, State Senator Kathy Campbell, and Mayor Chris Beutler are scheduled to be with us. Other prominent figures from public life will also be included in the lineup. All will be asked to address the impact of "abysmal" public discourse on fulfilling the responsibilities and maximizing the opportunities of their office.

Keynoting the series will be a weekend featuring Dr. James Calvin Davis, Associate Professor of Religion at Middlebury College, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, and author of *In Defense of Civility*. James is convinced that we in the church can and should "participate—perhaps even lead—in the rejuvenation of healthier public conversation." Toward that end, he will lead an all day seminar/workshop on Saturday, January 28th, and will teach and preach on the same subject the next day.

Rounding out this exciting program, Wednesday nights in January we will offer group discussion of *In Defense of Civility* in dialogue with what our weekly presenters are saying. Published at \$20.00, our Adult Ed ministry will make copies of this book available for \$5.00 beginning December 11th.

Another important event in our congregational life made possible by opening the windows of heaven and stepping into God's future.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Join us at 10:30 a.m. for a family friendly worship service. There will be no 8 a.m. worship, no 9 a.m. classes [including Adult Education, Crossroads, Sunday School and Confirmation] and no 10:45 Sunday School.

CHURCH EVENTS

DON'T FORGET! ST. NICK GIFTS DUE TODAY

St. Nick Gift Wrapping Party needs your help! Westminster is buying for 500 people this year. That means 'a lot' of gifts. We only wrap parent's gifts but it's still a lot of presents. Please join us **Tuesday, December 13th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Everyone welcome. Come, bring scissors and we'll have a spirit-filled evening of Christmas music, snacks, and fellowship.

LIVE INTO HOPE - WHAT IS IN YOUR CLOSET?

What does it mean to live into hope? It's to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and reach out to the lonely. Outreach is having a drive to gather gloves, hats, and socks, December 11th and 18th in the Garden Room. Open your closet and give the clothes an opportunity to warm others. Live into Hope.

#6 OF 10 REASONS TO Relax, Renew, Rejoice

Narrowing yours choices down to just four workshops may be a challenge, but you simply can't go wrong. See today's bulletin insert for a list of the prospects. Then register in the Garden Room today for *Soul Connections*, Westminster's retreat for all women, Sunday, January 14th, 8:30 to 4:00. Only \$10 for paid reservations made by January 8th.

WESTMINSTER CLUB DECEMBER 13TH

Join us for fellowship at 5:30 pm followed by a catered dinner at 6:00 p.m. Following dinner, we will hear Keith Ghormley present "A Christmas Carol." Call the church office 402-475-6702 by December 9th to make your reservation. Bring your own table service and \$7.00 for the cost of dinner.

| 2011 Paid to Date | 2011 Total Pledged Amount | % of Pledges Paid to Date |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| \$646,497 | \$761,000 | 84.95% |
| 2010 at this time: | | |
| \$622,538 | \$682,159 | 91.26% |