



THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 85 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2015

109 and Counting!

Next month, Westminster turns 110 years old! I know what you are thinking: she doesn't look a day over 108. But it is true! It is amazing to realize this church has added another decade to its wonderful history.

2015 will be a year-long celebration to help us recognize this milestone birthday. The Session and the Deacons will be going on Retreat at Camp Calvin Crest to help firm up goals and plans for the year. You will hear much more next month! Good things are in the works! To help us get in the spirit of things, we start this month with 3 things that are good news in our mission together.

Feeding the Hungry.

Jesus says, "I was hungry, and you fed me." (Matthew 25) The Outreach Ministry has set a goal for 2015 – to inspire the congregation to give an average of 110 food items per week to feed the hungry through the Westminster food pantry. Some weeks we have come very close. With more focus, we can feed more of those in need in Lincoln. This mission project will kick off this month as Outreach passes out grocery bags with suggested food items.

Stewardship of the Earth.

Secondly, Westminster has been named the first "Earth Care Congregation" among the Presbyterian Churches in Nebraska. This recognition by our PCUSA denomination is based in Genesis 2: 15-17, as God calls us to take responsibility for the stewardship of the earth. In light of that, we have taken a series of steps to make our building more ecologically friendly, our heat and electricity bills go down, and our awareness of our vocation of being stewards of the earth more prominent. And we are not going to rest on our laurels. If you would like to brainstorm about other steps we could take to be more ecologically responsible, see the invitation inside this messenger for more details.

Thank You to Our Leaders.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to those elders, deacons, ushers and Westminster Foundation members whose terms of service end this month. We are grateful for all your hard work and dedication. As with all the Lord's servants, we hope to hear at the final judgment, "Well done, good and faithful servant." In the mean time, let it be known that your brothers and sisters at Westminster are very grateful for your loving ministry and service. Thank you!

Ordination and Installation of new elders and deacons takes place on January 18.

I look forward to a wonderful 110th year with you all!

Sincerely,

Andrew McDonald

Upcoming Special Events

February Adult Education

Sunday morning Adult Education classes will engage the topic "A Christian Response to Race Relations." We will be addressing recent events across the country and how we as a faith community might respond. Guest speakers and discussion leaders will include Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald, Deidre Riggs and other leaders and educators in the community.

Westminster Bible Class

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

January 4
A Model for Prayer
Luke 11:1-13
Leader: Bud Tenney

January 11
Jesus Prays for the Disciples
John 17:6-21
Leader: Kaye Wolfe

January 18
Jesus Intercedes for Us
Hebrews 7:24-25
Leader: Ellen Davis

January 25
We Pray for One Another
James 5:16-18
Leader: Arlen Beam

Community Conversations Return in January

Our tradition of Community Conversations continues with a roster of speakers who have roles in public life that impact us all. Let's start the new year with our faith informing our life together as citizens.

January 4: Chris Beutler

State of the City Lincoln



January 11: Nancy Shank

Vital Signs of Lincoln



January 19: Judge Rob Otte

Our Third Branch of Government

January 25: Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley

Executive Branch

Small Group Updates

Small Groups at Westminster span a wide variety of age groups and interests — there's something for everybody! Plus, starting your own Small Group is easy! For more information or a list of current Small Groups, contact Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 11:30 a.m.

All ages are welcome to join us for lunch the first Tuesday of each month. This month we'll meet at Knolls Country Club (2201 Old Cheney Rd).

February 3: Sakura China

6145 O St

March 3: Beacon Hills

5353 N 27 St

April 7: The Eatery

2548 S 48 St

May 3: The Green Gateau

330 S 10 St

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parlor

The book for January is *The Meaning of Names* by Karen Shoemaker. The author will be present to lead discussion of the book. All are welcome.

Silver Screenings

We're still looking for individuals interested in joining our newest Small Group! If you're a movie enthusiast and want to join the conversation about the latest flicks, contact robynu2@hotmail.com to be added to the emailing list. Movie suggestions are encouraged. All ages welcome!

All in the Family

Baptisms:

Leoknightus Syrus Aleczander, son of Kennedy Hoffman and Alexander Lemon and Madeleine Jane, daughter of Katherine Gregg and James Mussman on December 28

Foundation Birthday Club

The following members celebrated birthdays during December and renewed or became members of the Foundation Birthday Club:

Kathy Anderson

Carol Bishop

Gene Deeter

Jane Grabenstein-Chandler

Marijane Hancock

Claire Hoppe

John Janovy

Irvine Linch

Scott Nelson

Teri Nelson

Jean Patoka

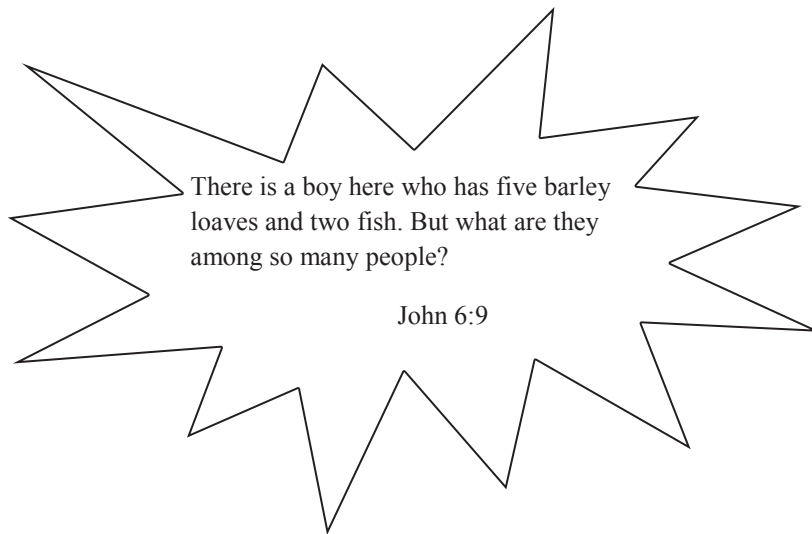
Barbara Schliesser

Roger Van Cleave

Tami Wellmann

Lois Zulauf

small Westminister
groups



Join us in Faith Village as children study the story of Jesus feeding 5,000. We will use art, cooking, music and computers to explore the meaning of Christ's message! The children will have the opportunity to learn how to use compassion, trust and sharing in their daily lives.

January is a time for renewal and resolutions. Make a decision TODAY to bring your children to Sunday School each week. Most children prefer having some routine in their lives. As parents we can model the spiritual discipline of learning and worshiping each week. This routine will help our children grow in their spiritual lives and form a firm foundation for them as they mature.

Kindergarten of Eden (Preschool Sunday School)

Through stories, crafts, songs and learning centers, preschool age children will learn that Jesus was a young person learning about God, too. Children will learn the story of Jesus growing and Jesus being baptized. They will come to understand that just like Jesus, we learn and we are baptized, too.

Coming Soon!

February Family Fun Night

Join your WPC friends for a night of family fun.

Friday, February 27th
6-8 p.m.

Drama Camp

March 9-13, 2015

9:00-3:00 p.m.

Spring Break Adventure for K-5th graders



Faith Building Blocks

Westminster continues the education of our children through Faith Building Blocks. These are age appropriate opportunities for children and their parents or adults to explore various aspects of our faith

God Makes a Promise to You!

Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

A FBB experience for 2nd graders and a parent. The Bible story of a faithful man named Noah reminds us that God loves all creation. Children will explore God's love, Noah's obedience, and how faithful people make choices that honor God.

The Lord's Prayer: 5th Grade

Wednesday, Mar. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

The Sacraments: 4th Grade

Wednesday, Apr. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Register for the 2015-16



Westminster preschool open house registration!

Thursday, January 22 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Do you know a child that would benefit from a high-quality nationally accredited preschool program?

Westminster Preschool offers part-day or full-day options for children ages 3 through 6 (Preschool and Pre-K). Our registration open house is the first opportunity for families to get registered with us! We fill up quickly, but families who register this night are given first priority. Children are welcome to attend. Tell your friends and family!

Find us Online: www.wpslincoln.org

Facebook: Westminster Preschool




**westminster
preschool**

For more information, contact Suzanne Schneider

(402) 475-6702

suanne@westminsterlincoln.org

Other News

Silver Ladle Award

Member Care Ministry continues to reach out to members. The ministry won first place in the Chili Cook-off at "C" is for Christmas! Along with the prestigious Silver Ladle Award, they won a gift certificate to Valentino's which was provided to Pastor Jen for a youth group activity. These two food activities fit with the Mission of Member Care since they also are in charge of the "Cook and Carry" program to help members in times of need with food. Over 40 volunteers are on-call to assist others. "Cook and Carry" provides nutritional assistance and the Prayer Chain provides emotional assistance so contact Marge (402-475-6702) or es@westminsterlincoln.org when you need help.



This year we are celebrating the 110th anniversary of the founding of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. Although the Food Pantry has not been in existence that long, we would like to commemorate our 110 years by encouraging our congregation to fill the pantry donation box at the east entrance with 110 donated items each Sunday during 2015. The non-perishable items that are needed each week include the following:

Rolls of toilet tissue	Jello	Pancake syrup
Pancake mix	Bars of hand soap	Dry breakfast cereal
Oatmeal	Cooking oil	Sugar
Soda crackers	Peanut butter	Rice
Spaghettios	Dry noodles	Macaroni & cheese
Tuna	Stew (or chili)	Canned fruit
Canned vegetables	Instant potatoes	Pork & beans
Canned soup	Spaghetti	Spaghetti sauce

Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast

What a way to start 2015! Westminster Men gather in the Parlor for food, fellowship and learning each Tuesday morning. A continental breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for first timers) is available soon after 6:30 a.m. The program follows at 7:00 a.m. Dismissal is by 8:00 a.m.

Here is the January lineup:

January 6: "Getting to Know You"
(members of the group)

Led by Roger Ghormley

January 13: "Review of the Westminster Fellowship Operating Procedures"

Led by Mark Whitehead
President

Westminster Fellowship

January 20: TBA

January 27: Bible Study

Dr. Andrew McDonald

All men are cordially invited to come
and share this
great way to kick
off the new year.

Presbyterian Women

Circle 3

Wednesday, Jan. 7 at 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Parlor
Linda Miller (402-423-1311)

Circle 4

Monday, Jan. 5 at 7:00 p.m.
3160 S 72 St Apt 225
Linda Burchard (477-5572)

Circle 5

Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Lounge
Pat Hackley (402-423-2909)

Circle 6

Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7:00 p.m.
Westminster Library
Jane Hines (402-488-8302)

Reverend Dr. Andrew L. McDonald
Senior Pastor
andrew@westminsterlincoln.org

Reverend Jennifer Strickland
Associate Pastor
jen@westminsterlincoln.org

Reverend Ellen Davis
Parish Associate
ellen@westminsterlincoln.org

Cheryl Rennick
Business Administrator
cheryl@westminsterlincoln.org

Boyd Bacon
Director of Music and Fine Arts
boyd@westminsterlincoln.org

Dr. Masako Nakamura Bacon
Associate Director of Music and Fine Arts
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Suzanne Schneider
Preschool Director
suzanne@westminsterlincoln.org

Betsy Guyer
Director of Children's Ministries
betsy@westminsterlincoln.org

Marge Tomlinson
Administrative Secretary
marge@westminsterlincoln.org

Colton Langsam
High School Youth Director

Devon Nelson
Middle School Youth Director

**The Messenger is a monthly publication of
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westminsterlincoln.org**

WOW!

WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAYS!

Who doesn't love a warm meal and the comfort of friends on chilly winter nights? Join us for WOW on Wednesday nights at Westminster! Every week, we serve a home-cooked meal from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m., followed up by a fun selection of adult education, youth activities and music rehearsals. Here's our regularly scheduled lineup:

5:45	Dinner
6:20	Westminster Carillon
6:30	Cherub Choir, Alleluia! Amen!, Knit N Sit
.....	WOW XL, Sr. High Youth Group, Adult Education
7:30	Westminster Choir

Adult Education Schedule

Wednesday, January 14-February 11
Lounge

Join with Adam Luedtke as he leads an educational and interactive workshop on Contemplative Prayer.

WOW Dinner

Come to WOW Dinner and have a delicious, nutritious, home-cooked meal complete with salad, fruit, veggies and desert. Served every Wednesday from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. in Cole Hall.

\$4/children ages 3-12, \$5/adults, \$16 max per family.

January 7: Pork roast w/sour kraut and hoppin John

January 14: Hamburgers and French Fries

January 21: Spaghetti/meatballs and garlic bread sticks

January 28: Ham 'n bean soup with baked potatoes



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Wanted: Your Ideas

On January 4th Westminster was recognized as the first church in Nebraska to be certified as an Earth Care Congregation. This accreditation is awarded by our denomination, the Presbyterian Church USA, based on our accomplishments in four areas: worship, education, facilities and outreach. You know that we don't use disposable cups on Sunday mornings, but did you know that we also have energy efficient lighting? That our kids recycle in their Sunday School classes? That we collaborate with Community Supported Agriculture? That our landscaping is designed for Nebraska's weather? And that's just for starters.



In this, Westminster's 110th year, we want to celebrate what we've accomplished so far and get ready for the next 110 years. There is so much more we could do to be good stewards of our one and only planet! What are YOUR thoughts about promoting creation care this year? Help develop the vision at the Giant Brainstorming Session at WOW, Wednesday, January 7 (dinner at 5:45, brainstorming 6:30-7:30), facilitated by Maggie Stuckey and Jen Strickland. All are welcome — and there's no such thing as a bad idea!