
Jesus' Passion – And Ours

We wait too long in Lent to talk about the passion of Jesus. When the term “the passion of the Christ” is used, it generally refers to Jesus’ brutal whipping and his being placed upon the cross on the last day of his life. In fact, Jesus’ whole life is one example after another of passion and suffering-love. In the first three chapters of the Gospel of Mark alone, we already see:

- Jesus courageously facing down those infected with demonic spirits. (Mark 1: 24)
- Jesus challenging those who do not want to forgive. (Mark 2: 7)
- Jesus ridiculed for eating and drinking with sinners. (Mark 2: 16)
- Jesus risking a lawsuit for having faith with a human face. (Mark 2:24)
- Jesus suffering a conspiracy of leaders threatened by his ability to heal (Mark 3:6)
- Jesus risking the alienation of his family in order to give a new vision of the family of God (Mark 3:35).

In his whole life, the passion of Jesus is revealed, as he shows his radical love and trust in God. Rooted in God’s grace, Jesus is free to truly live – in all times and places -- with passion.

Jesus’ example challenges each of us to ask: “Where is God calling and empowering me in passion? How can I help someone else to truly live?” Martin Luther, 494 years ago, risked his life when he stood up for his new form of faith – the Protestant Church – when he said, “Here I stand, God help me, I can do no other.” That is passion! So where do we stand?

In very practical terms, you will be hearing in the next two months an invitation to live out your passion. To stand for:

- Spreading the life-giving good news of the gospel.
- Singing God’s praises in the face of the idolatry of modern culture.
- Building up the family of faith.
- Empowering others to teach and to hear the Bible.
- Making it possible to give to the poor and needy in all times and seasons.

Pre-Easter is a time of preparation. So ask yourself, “What is my passion?” Or more theologically, “What passion has God given me?” “Where do I reflect the love, the trust and the faith of Jesus?” “Where do I live out the passion of Jesus Christ, our Lord?”

Seeking life and faith in Lent,
Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor

Small Groups & Outreach Ministries

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.

Westminster Club Spring Events

We meet in Cole Hall at 5:30 pm for punch, dinner, and programs. The cost of dinner is \$10. Watch the Vine for more information as the time gets closer.

March 24	"History of Lincoln"	Jim McKee
April 21	"Changes in Christian Education"	Betsy Guyer
May 26	"The Military Family"	Ellen & Lynn Davis

Wednesday Small Group

A Prayer Small Group has recently been formed. This group will meet in the Chapel from 6:45 to 7:30 on Wednesdays during WOW.

Food Pantry

A big THANK YOU to all who participated in our annual Food Drive! We hope the congregation will help us reach the next challenge of collecting 110 items each week this year, to continue to commemorate our 110th anniversary. Please think of us throughout the year as you are doing your grocery shopping.

Pilger Mission Trip

April 20-24

Are you called to reach out to communities in need? Do you like to roll up your sleeves and work hard? Then join our mission trip to Pilger, NE! For more information, or to sign-up, contact the church at (402) 475-6702 or email Ken at kkgovaerts@gmail.com

Bible Study: Gospel of Luke

The Gospel of Luke Bible Study will meet in the Lounge on Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to Noon. The class is taught by Rev. Dr. Ken Moore. All are welcome!

small Westminister groups

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, March 3
11:30 am
Beacon Hill

History Buffs

Saturday, March 14
9:00 am in the Lounge
Richard III: Villain or Hero?
Christy Dempsey, PhD

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, March 18
1 pm in the Parlor
Book: *China Dolls* by Lisa See
Facilitator Martha Van Sickle

Ladies' Night Out

Thursday, March 19
5-7 pm
McFarland & Son's Irish Pub
710 P St.
(in the Haymarket, by Lazlo's)
Casual fellowship over appetizers and a cocktail. No RSVP needed, just drop in at your leisure--invite a friend!

Tour de Friends

Wednesday, March 25
5:30 (WOW dinner)
Are you interested in cycling this season? This is your invitation to join the Tour de Friends and share what trails and destinations you would like to explore this spring. For more information, contact Robyn at: robynu2@hotmail.com

Space for Grace

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall

What does God think about the way we spend our money, consume media, eat, and spend our time? Come and be a part of the conversation in a new Lenten series with Rev. Jennifer Strickland. In this study, we will be reading Scripture and examining four different aspects of our life that could use the holy and grace-filled presence of Jesus. Starting March 1, the class will be held Sunday mornings, 9-10am and Wednesday evenings, 6:45-7:30pm in the Lounge. Our Wednesday evening devotionals are also part of the series, and will take place in the chapel from 6:20-6:35pm.

Westminster Bible Class

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Parlor

March 1	John 1:29-34	The Lamb of God	Ernie Hines
March 8	John 14:15-26	Jesus Promises an Advocate	Ernie Hines
March 15	John 16:4b-15	The Spirit of Truth	Ellen Davis
March 22	John 20:19-23	Receive the Holy Spirit	Ellen Davis
March 29	Mark 11:1-11	The One Who Comes	Francie Knosp

Presbyterian Women

All Westminster women are invited to visit or join one of the following circles. Just call the number listed for monthly details.

Circle 3

Wednesday, March 4 at 10:00 am
6611 E Shore Dr.
Barbara Schliesser (402-489-6219)

Circle 4

Monday, March 2 at 7:00 pm
2905 South 41st Street
Carolyn Harp, (402-570-5438)

Circle 5

Tuesday, March 10 at 10:00 am
Westminster Lounge
Pat Hackley (402-423-2909)

Circle 6

Tuesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm
Westminster Library
Jane Hines (402-488-8302)

Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast

Join Westminster Men for a great lineup of programs. A continental breakfast (only \$2 and FREE for first-timers) is available soon after 6:30 a.m. with an hour-long program beginning at 7:00 a.m.

March's Conversation theme is: **EMBRACING AN ADULT FAITH.**

This exciting, five-week series will provide participants with a richer understanding of issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology. Following a brief presentation of each week's topic by the theologian Marcus Borg, the group will delve more deeply into each week's theme

March 3

*Embracing an Adult Faith:
Who Is God?*

March 10

*Embracing an Adult Faith:
Who is Jesus?*

March 17

*Embracing an Adult Faith:
What is Salvation?*

March 24

*Embracing an Adult Faith:
How do we practice our Faith?*

March 31

*Embracing an Adult Faith:
How do we live in Community?*

Gospel Mass

By Robert Ray

March 15, 2015

10:30 am Worship Service

Repent, Praise, and Proclaim the love of Jesus Christ through this energetic music in a liturgical setting. Nebraska Wesleyan Jazz Choir and Westminster Choir will share the Gospel in English.

March Choir Schedule

Please note the choir rehearsal times will be modified in order to participate in the Lenten Devotions (6:20-6:35 pm, Chapel) for Wednesday, March 4, 18, and 25.

Westminster Carillon

6:40-7:40 pm- Sanctuary

Cherub Choir (ages 3-preK)

6:40-7:30 pm- 210 East

Alleluia! Amen! (K-5)

6:40-7:30 pm- 210

Westminster Choir

7:40-9 pm- Sanctuary

NO Children's Choir or Bells on March 11 due to LPS Spring Break. There WILL be Westminster Choir and Westminster Carillon. The regular schedule for all the Choirs and Bell Choirs will resume on April 1.

Holy Week Worship Services

We come to worship to give thanks to God for God's great sacrifice for us to learn why we are Christians and why we celebrate Easter. Come and join in praise and prayer for the climax of the life of Jesus.

Palm Sunday, March 29

8 am in the Chapel

10:30 am in the Sanctuary

11:45 am in Fellowship Hall

All Children meet at 10:15 am in Cole Hall for parading with palms. Celebrate the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem with a tiny donkey for true triumph! Holy Week starts here!

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7 pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 3

Noon in the Chapel

7 pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Worship Services, April 5

7 am in the Chapel

9 am in the Sanctuary

11 am in the Sanctuary

12:15 in the Chapel (Contemporary)

Nebraska Brass, Westminster Brass, Westminster Carillon, & Westminster Choir will provide music for Easter Sunday!

Creative Arts Camp

July 13-17

9 am to Noon

Mark **CAC Big Under the Sea Adventure!** on your calendar for this summer for your Kindergarten through 5th graders!

We will explore children's creativity with Crafts, Arts, Music, Drama, and Movement in multi-cultural activities. All the classes will be led by an expert in the area. Go out in the world and discover!

Early registration will be available online Friday, March 6th through Friday, May 15th at www.westminsterlincoln.org.



Easter Eggstavaganza

Please join us on April 4th from 10am-11:30am for a free and exciting Easter event at Westminster. There will be games, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt for children 3 years-5th grade. We will also have a peanut free room.



There will also be an opportunity to participate in the **Adopt-an-Egg** program. Feel free to grab a bag (or 2) of empty eggs and fill them for the hunt. Eggs will be available at the East entrance starting on March 1st. We will need the filled eggs returned by March 29th. Thank you for your help with this exciting event!

Vacation Bible School

June 22-26

9 am to Noon



Mark **VBS G-FORCE** on your calendar for this summer for your pre-school through 5th graders! Kids will be able to explore what it means to see and act out God's Love in Action! This week's adventures include interactive fun, great music, super science, cool crafts, and more!

Early registration will be available online Friday, March 6th through Friday, May 15th at www.westminsterlincoln.org.



Youth In Action!

We were happy to host First Presbyterian's Youth from Jefferson City, MO in February. They came to Lincoln for their annual Mission Trip and worked in a variety of local missions.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Baptisms: Rhett Robert, son of Julia and Tyler Peterson; Olivia Ryan, daughter of Bethany and Scott Bantam; Emerson Morgan, daughter of Megan and Scott Witt.

Births: Congratulations on the birth of Caleb Thomas, son of Lisa and Matthew Marquardt, born January 13; and Madison Marcelle, daughter of Jessica and Mike Yesilcimen, born January 30.

Bereavements: Comfort for the family and friends of James Knisley, who died on December 30; Jean Wiedman on January 4; Marianne Grandstaff on January 15; Laura Coniglio on January 28; Genevieve Schmidt on January 30; Dee Edwards on February 12.

Foundation Birthdays

Rex Martin
Karen Hoffman
Marge Young
Regi Schirmer
Stan Campbell
Alice Schnabel
George Peterson
Robyn Uebele
Todd Peterson
Lee Sonderegger
Charlie Gallentine

Annual Deacon's Easter Breakfast— now with an expanded menu!

April 5th; 8 am—Noon

Easter Sunday's Breakfast will feature Savory Frittata, Scrambled Eggs, Fresh Cinnamon Rolls, Corned Beef Hash, Biscuits and Gravy and much, much more. A meal for vegetarians, meat lovers, and friendly to gluten-free folks too! Suggested Easter Breakfast offering \$6.00 a person.

You will also be able to pick up your pre-ordered fresh-baked cinnamon rolls.

Haven't preordered cinnamon rolls yet? Stop in the Garden Room on any Sunday during Lent or call the church to place your order. You get to choose between a White Icing or Caramel Icing!



Why I love being a Deacon

Jill McCarty

Growing up attending a small Presbyterian church in Northeast Nebraska, I can remember always being interested in what my parents were involved in as they served as Deacons and Elders of our congregation. I remember being a part of, or should I say: was volunteered to help with, many activities while they served their terms. At the time, I probably didn't understand what affect those activities had on our congregation, but also on each individual that received help.

I recently took my 8-year-old daughter to one of our Deacon meetings. As I was being tapped on my leg every time Pastor Jen asked for volunteers and hearing "Mom, we can help with that," I thought about what being a Deacon means and how what we

do truly does affect everyone.

Being a Deacon gives me a chance to help our congregation and represent our congregation in the community. It is a great way to get involved in the church, meet people, or simply because you want to serve.

It is amazing to me that in a city the size of Lincoln, I run into members of our congregation frequently. And when I say, "I'm a member of Westminster too," there seems to be a sense of family. It's like I'm home again at my small church in Northeast Nebraska telling my parents, "We can change the world." Maybe the world is extreme, but it is nice to know that what we as Deacons do, does matter. Home is a great place to be!!

Swanson Scholarship

Full-time undergraduate students and high school seniors are encouraged to apply for Westminster's Swanson Scholarship. Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient per academic school year.

Applications are available on the church website or picked up in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study, however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. Deadline is April 15.

2015 Church Growth Leadership Summit

at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Register at:

www.friendlypresbyterianchurches.org

Join a 2 day summit to discover practical strategies to grow your church!

There is no "one size fits all" answer. A diverse group of successful church leaders will share a variety of strategies. Come, listen to these leaders, listen to other engaged churches, and listen for the Spirit to move!



Growth Summit Speakers:

Anna Carter Florence, M.Div and PhD

William H. Willimon, author and professor

Bill Tenny-Brittian, Editor in Chief of *Net Results Magazine*

Creative Worship Leaders:

Darkwood Brew, HeBrews 2:11, and Urban Abbey

Registration Costs:

\$75 through March 16 (early bird) \$95 March 16-April 13

Discounts for Seminary Students & CRE's in training

Registration costs include cost of meals.

**The 6th Annual
Abrahamic Dinner
Wednesday, March 11
6-9 pm at Westminster
"Islam's Jesus"
By Zeki Saritoprak, Ph.D.
RSVP required
by March 4th
RSVP at:
niagarafoundation.org
Or call the church**

ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS DINNER





SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.475.6702
westminsterlincoln.org

Save the Date: Thursday evening, April 30, 2015

“Blessed to Be a Blessing”

A celebration of the 110th anniversary of Westminster Presbyterian Church,
& the 60th anniversary of The Westminster Foundation.

Join Westminster’s adult members and friends for a special evening celebrating the blessings God has given us. Share in celebrating the glorious history of the past and a vision for the future.

Social Hour begins at 6:00 pm

Dinner Served at 6:30 pm

Special Guest Speaker: Tom Osborn

Embassy Suites, Lincoln, NE

RSVP online at www.westminsterlincoln.org
or call the church (402-475-6702) **by March 31, 2015**

Childcare will be provided at the Church.

Cost of dinner will be underwritten by The Westminster Foundation.

A free will offering will be received.