

Now in An Enchanted Place



I grew up near an enchanted place. It was a set of woods, about 50 acres. No one lived there. Just some cows. We kids would walk, and run, and explore all through the timber and meadows. In the middle of the forest there were 2 apple trees. Apple trees in the middle of nowhere? Who put them there? Johnny Appleseed? Eating wild apples on an autumn day – what a gift.

Down the hill was a fox den. If you were real quiet when you arrived, you would see baby foxes hopping like kangaroos through the tall grass. They had good ears and noses, so you did not have long to watch before they would look you straight in the eye as if to say, “Hello! Goodbye!” And they disappeared. Hopping baby foxes playing together -- a most wonderful sight.

Two creeks joined together in the woods. Always there were tadpoles or frogs to catch. (It was catch and release – I promise we did not eat them). But it was always a surprise to spot them and try to catch them. The creeks joined together under a giant catalpa tree, with leaves the size of dinner plates. That tree in the middle of the forest was like something out of Alice’s Wonderland. All these things – it was a gift. I didn’t earn it. I just got to enjoy it.

Now I work in a church. I feel like this church is that same kind of enchanted place. There are all these people who surprise you. Some of them make music that touches your heart. How do they make such glorious sounds? It is a gift. Other people lead children in stories of faith, hope and love. The children make your heart leap when you see them singing, drawing and playing.

Some people cook food and bring it to people who are sick or sad, and the food makes them smile. Some people write little notes that say: “Thinking of you.” It is the sweetest feeling to hear people say, “I got this beautiful note, and it touched my heart.” There are people who are very good at welcoming strangers. They walk up to a stranger, start talking to them, and in some enchanted way, the stranger turns into a friend. They end up with a spiritual home.

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One person saw a broken harpsichord – and fixed it like brand new. Who doesn’t love the sound of a harpsichord with its mystic melody. Some people have taken the beautiful stained glass windows that started to sag and could break one day, and made them straight and shining like brand new. Others have taken broken or sagging people, and talked with them, and touched their hearts, and made them stand up straight again. Like brand new.

Of course it’s not magic. It’s Jesus who inspires all of this. Jesus brings all these people together. And gives them gifts to bless one another. You can hear Jesus smiling when he says, “Love one another, as I have loved you.”

Those woods of my childhood? Now I know how they were kept wondrous, because now I am a steward of those woods. I help watch over them. Far more importantly, you and I are stewards of this enchanting church. We make sure it stays strong, and healthy. We keep it a sanctuary, a safe-place filled with Christ’s love. We are stewards of this enchanting people of God.

“For everything there is a season (Ecclesiastes 3:1) Now is stewardship time at Westminster. It is our time to appreciate with wonder the gifts God has given the world. And for us to make sure that our pledges keep beautiful things happening among this enchanting people of God. When we look at this wonderful church, sometimes we have to step back and say, “What a gift.” It’s ours to watch over as stewards in the household of God.

Thank you for your love for this congregation and its mission. There are moments when the love of this church is so breathtaking, it makes you feel like a child again, running through God’s garden.

Gratefully yours,
Andrew McDonald, Senior Pastor

Consecration Sunday – Bring Your Pledge Card.

Please bring your pledge card to worship on **November 8** for Consecration Sunday. We will bring them forward and dedicate them together. We encourage parents to walk their pledge forward with their children so they can participate, and we can be role models of dedicating our stewardship gifts to God.

If you are unable to be with us on that day, please put it in the offering plate or mail it to:

*Business Administrator
Westminster, 2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502*

If you have questions, please call the office and ask for Cheryl Rennick (402-475-6702).

Important Reminder!

Congregation Meeting
Scheduled for **November 15.**

Mark you calendars for the
Annual Meeting of the
Congregation on
Sunday, November 15,
following 10:30 AM worship.
All members are
encouraged to attend.



Attention All Faith Village Friends!!!

November will be a special and fun month in Faith Village. A generous donation of beautiful stain glass turkey hands came from a talented member of our congregation. Everyone has the opportunity to earn one of these pieces of art to represent your achievements in Faith Village. All you have to do is complete the activities for the month of November and you will have earned your turkey. The activities include learning the new song "Little Things", learning the memory verse from 1 Samuel, and actively participating in 3 or 4 rotations for the month of November. The turkey hands will be awarded during Sunday School on November 22 in Faith Village. We hope to see all of you in Faith Village!

Children & Families Ministry

In Faith Village, the K-5th graders are engaged in a workshop rotation model each Sunday beginning at 10:45 AM. In November, the children will learn the boyhood stories of David. God used the gifts of the boy David to accomplish God's purposes. God saw something in David no one else could see. Everyone has God-given gifts to accomplish God's work in the world. God cares more about what is on the inside than how we appear on the outside. We invite you to bring your children to Sunday School to explore the wonder and excitement of being a child of God.

Pageant Audition for Children's Choirs Wednesday November 4

from 6:30-7:25 pm
in Room 210

The last audition date for the Pageant. Learn multi-cultural Christmas carols and spread the Good News!

'C' is for Christmas Sunday, November 29 from 5-7 pm

Let's gather with anticipation of GREAT JOY on this first Sunday of Advent. Renew friendship and fellowship with Children's Crafts, Chili Cook-Off, and Carol Singing with Jean Patoka.

Sign up for the Chili Cook-Off begins on November 1 in the Garden Room or call the church office. Booth space is available for those interested in sharing handmade items or other items for sale. Please contact Marge or Masako (402.475.6702 or masako@westminsterlincoln.org) if you are interested!

November WOW Dinners

- Nov 4:** Chicken Sandwich, French Fries, & Peaches
- Nov 11:** Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, & Green Beans
- Nov 18:** Chicken & Rice Soup & PIE NIGHT
(Everyone is invited to bring a pie to share!)
- Nov 25:** No WOW— Happy Thanksgiving!

Westminster preschool open house registration!



Thursday, January 21 from 6:00-7:00

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

For more information, contact Suzanne Schneider
suzanne@westminsterlincoln.org or (402) 475-6702



Getting to Know the Youth Directors

Pastor Jen took some time to ask our youth directors a series of questions. You can find the full article online at westminsterlincoln.org/youthdirectorinterview. Devon Nelson, a 15+ year member, has worked with Westminster's youth for a couple years now— first the middle school youth and now the senior high youth. Andrew Finkner joined the Westminster team in September, as the middle school youth director.

What exciting things do you see God doing with our youth?

Andrew: I see God igniting a desire inside each youth to know God better and pursue a relationship with God. I've seen God work in people's lives through others. My role is to facilitate that start. I enjoy hearing and understanding people, learning their full story. I know kids this age especially, hold a lot inside. I hope they can trust me to talk to about those problems. I didn't have many people like that in my life, so I hope to break down those boundaries.

Devon: It's a really cool part of my job to see our youth get excited about God! Specifically, when our youth bring in stories of how they saw God work in school, in their community, or even at home, it really re-ignites the passion I have for working with our youth and makes everything better. It's sometimes surreal for me to work with our youth and at the end of the year take a step back, look at the attitudes of the kids when the year started and then see what it is now and think that I had a part in the positive changes these kids are making in their lives.

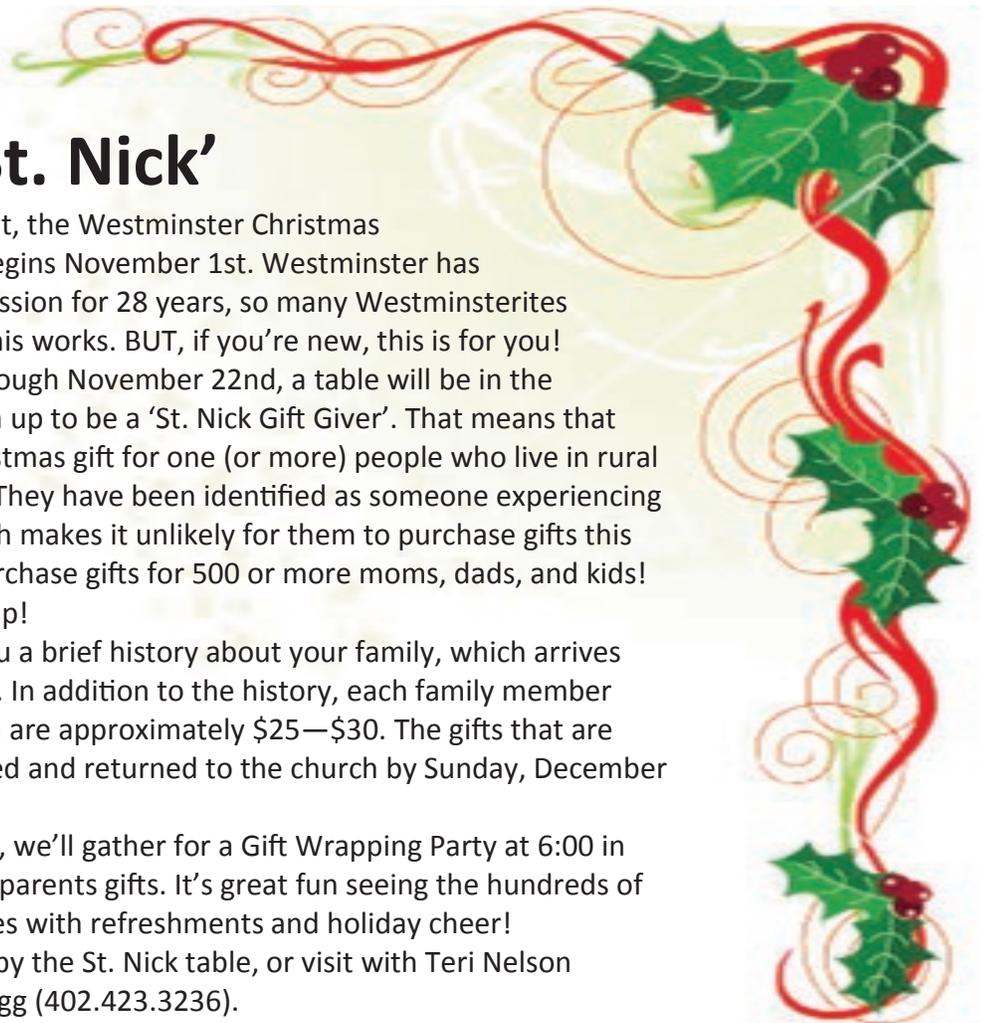
Watch for 'St. Nick'

St Nick is coming! That's right, the Westminster Christmas Mission Project, 'St. Nick', begins November 1st. Westminster has sponsored this important mission for 28 years, so many Westminsterites are very familiar with how this works. BUT, if you're new, this is for you! Beginning November 1st through November 22nd, a table will be in the Garden Room for you to sign up to be a 'St. Nick Gift Giver'. That means that you would like to buy a Christmas gift for one (or more) people who live in rural areas in outstate Nebraska. They have been identified as someone experiencing difficult circumstances, which makes it unlikely for them to purchase gifts this Christmas. Each year, we purchase gifts for 500 or more moms, dads, and kids! That's why we need your help!

After signing up, we send you a brief history about your family, which arrives around the 1st of December. In addition to the history, each family member provides 3 gift choices which are approximately \$25—\$30. The gifts that are purchased are left unwrapped and returned to the church by Sunday, December 13th.

On Tuesday, December 15th, we'll gather for a Gift Wrapping Party at 6:00 in Fellowship Hall, to wrap the parents gifts. It's great fun seeing the hundreds of gifts and enjoying fellow elves with refreshments and holiday cheer!

Want to know more?? Stop by the St. Nick table, or visit with Teri Nelson (402.423.0986) or Freda Gregg (402.423.3236).



Advent & Christmas Music at Westminster

Advent I (November 29)

"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"
Strings and Harpsichord

Advent III (December 13)

"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"
Children's Pageant

Advent II (December 6)

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
Westminster Carillon

Advent IV (December 20)

"On This Day, Christ is Born"
Westminster Choir

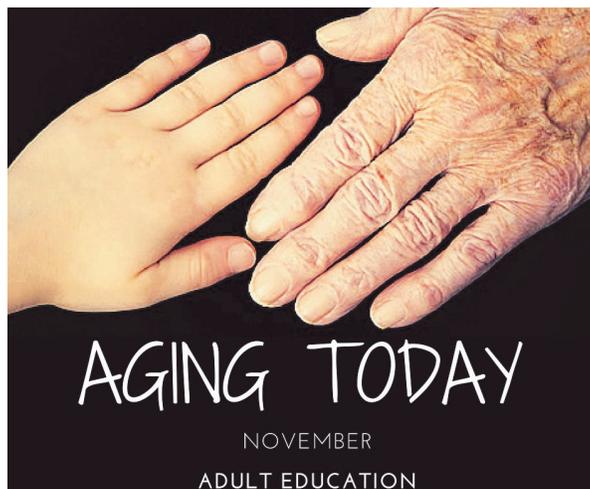


Christmas Eve

- 3 pm Family Service: Youth Ensemble
5 pm Traditional Service: Nebraska Brass,
Westminster Brass, Alleluia! Amen!,
Cherub Choir, Youth Ensemble
7 pm The Rising (contemporary): The Rising Band
9 pm Traditional Service: Nebraska Brass,
Westminster Brass, Westminster
Carillon, Westminster Choir

FaithFULL Living

Adult Education on Sundays
from 9:00 – 10:00 AM



Throughout the Fall, Sunday Morning Adult Education has focused on FaithFULL Living. That is, exploring ways that our Christian faith is lived out through the wide spectrum of the human experience. All classes meet from 9:00 – 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings in the Lounge. We look forward to seeing you this month as we focus on **Agging Today**. In this four week series, local experts will present on various topics related to aging today. Learn about resources and innovative programs happening right here in Lincoln.

November 1 – Karla Wilson, Marketing Coordinator, Gateway Senior Living

Join us for a conversation about the values, benefits of Medicare, and answer questions people may have.

November 8 – Sarah Baltensperger, Program Director, Pathways to Compassion Hospice

Join in a discussion about hospice, home health and palliative care.

November 15 – Liz Seitz, Administrator, GracePoint Assisted Living & Memory Care Suites, Tabitha

Is there anything YOU can do to prevent memory loss? Learn about basic brain functions that affect memory and activities you can do to keep you brain in top health.

November 22 – TBD

Westminster Bible Class

This year, all classes are centered on the theme of “Living a Christian Life”. November’s focus is: Seeds of New Growth. All are welcome to attend this Sunday morning class at 9 am in the Parlor.

Foundation Birthdays

November

Harold Bowen	Mark Schorr
Jeanne Cuda	Ron Wachter
Joyce Douglas	Foster Woodruff
Rachael Hamilton	Shalla Young
Deb Schorr	

Date	Scripture	Topic
November 1	Acts 12:1-11	God Releases the Captive
November 8	Acts 15:1-12	God Makes No Distinction
November 15	Acts 16:1-5, 8-15	From Derbe to Philippi
November 22	Acts 17:1-4, 10-12, 22-25, 28	Thessalonica, Berea, & Athens
November 29 (Advent Begins)	Acts 18:1-11, 18-21	Teaching God’s Word

All in the Family

Comfort for the family & friends of Orlin Webert who died on October 15

Upcoming Events & small groups



Westminster

groups

For a list of current Small Groups, contact Robyn at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Saving Time Ends
Set your clock back 1 hour!

Sunday, November 8

Consecration Sunday
Presentation of 3rd Grade
Bibles

Sunday, November 15

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 22

Officer Training
Christ the King Sunday

Wednesday, November 25

No WOW this evening. Join us
for a combined Thanksgiving
Eve Worship Service at First
Presbyterian Church.

Thursday & Friday, November 26-27

The Church Office will be
CLOSED for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 29

Advent Begins
C is for Christmas

Young Adult

Friendsgiving Potluck
Sunday, November 15
From 5-7

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, November 18
1 pm in Westminster's Parlor
Program: Creating a Reading
List for 2016

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, November 3

11:30 am at Olive Garden
Join us for fun and fellowship. Call Lar-
ry Wieskamp (402.802.6883) for more
info.

Second Sunday Lunch

Sunday, November 8

Following 10:30 worship, Second
Sunday Lunch will be held in
Fellowship Hall. Join us for turkey and
mashed potatoes and conversation!

History Buffs

Saturday, November 14

9:00 am in the Lounge
Lewis & Clark: A New Look
Led by Professor Gary Moulton, the
leading Lewis & Clark scholar, as well
as a Westminster member. He is the
editor of the thirteen-volume edition
of the Journals of the Lewis & Clark
Expedition, begun in 1983 under the
sponsorship of the Center for Great
Plains Studies and the American
Philosophical Society, with support
from the National Endowment for the
Humanities.

World on a Plate

Friday, November 20

Small dinner groups will be 'visiting'
Paris in conjunction with the Climate
Change Conference in Paris! Contact
Kathy Rohwedder
(kathrohwa@yahoo.com) with
questions or to join a group!

Men's Tuesday Breakfast

Meets at 7 am in the Parlor.

November 3

Bible Study
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

November 10

November 17

Lincoln Community Foundation
Chip DeBuse

November 24

History of the Pilgrims &
Thanksgiving
Mark Whitehead

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

Circle 3

Wednesday, November 4 - 10 am
Home of Carolyn McCall
2720 Van Dorn St
(402.525.0473)

Circle 4

Monday, November 2 — 7 pm
Home of Martha Dennis
1845 South 48th St
(402.489.6345)

Circle 5

Tuesday, November 10
10 am in the Lounge
Pat Hackley (402.423.22909)

Circle 6

Tuesday, November 24
7 pm in the Library
Jane Hines
(402.488.8302)



♦
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BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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

Celebrating Westminster's 110th Anniversary with 110 Musicians!

Sunday, November 22 at 10:30 Worship

Christ the King Sunday concludes the Liturgical Year by remembering the Triumph of Christ. Come in thanksgiving and praise to God to celebrate Westminster's 110th year in a special way! Our goal is to sing "The Hallelujah Chorus" with more voices than ever! Musicians from all choirs and instrumental groups (plus anyone who would like to join us!) will gather and make joyful music to the Lord.

