



THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 84, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2014

The Power at Work Within Us

Our faith teaches us how profoundly our lives matter. Jesus is the relentless assertion that God wants every life to be full, vibrant and meaningful. In a world where so many people act as if what they do does not matter, Christ reveals a totally different vision.

In Christ, our actions impact the world with a profound meaning, lasting even into eternity. Even when we are facing insurmountable odds, by faith we are empowered by grace. Paul praises God, saying:

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or imagine, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 3:20)

“The power that works within us!” “Glory in the church!” It means God’s power is working in us, and the church exists to carry on the life-changing mission of Jesus Christ. This vision is empowered through stewardship. Consider four ways stewardship strengthens us.

1. When you pledge, your life connects with the sacrificial grace of Jesus Christ, reflecting the height, breadth and depth of God’s love.
2. When you pledge, you enter into partnership with brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ, and multiply the impact of everyone’s gifts.
3. Pledging connects you with the past and the future. You carry forward the work begun here long ago, and you prepare the way as Christ leads us into an even brighter future.
4. Pledging reflects our strength of will. The will—our capacity to organize ourselves—manifests itself as we work to achieve the goals Christ sets before us.

To be in relationship with Christ, we make choices and commitments to live with grace, hope and generosity. I strongly encourage you to make a generous pledge to the work of Christ through the Westminster stewardship campaign.

Your pledge strengthens your church, your brothers and sisters in faith, and the mission to which Christ calls us. Pray for God’s guidance and strength. And then bring your pledge card to worship on Consecration Sunday, October 26. As we all share our gifts together, we will experience God “doing far more abundantly beyond what we ask or think.”

Yours in Christ,

Andrew McDonald, Senior Pastor

World Communion Sunday October 5

In observance of World Communion Sunday, a celebration promoting Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation, Pastor Jen reached out to our mission partners for prayer requests from around the world. The responses overflowed her inbox, and we wanted to share some of these with you. If you'd like to read the full list of requests, email jen@westminsterlincoln.org.

Prayers for Haiti — Cindy Corell

Remember the people of Haiti as the country stumbles through another difficult political season. Pray for the vulnerable: the poor, elderly, children and infirm. Pray that suffering is kept to a minimum, and families are able to make a living wage.

Pray that poor families can keep their farms. We desperately need rain, a prayer I know the people of Nebraska understand well!

Many blessings on you for asking. In sharing these needs, you truly are bringing the world to God's table. I pray special blessings for your congregation!

Prayers for Brazil — Farris and Thelma Goodrum

At our seminary, we have not been able to afford teachers for four classes at a time (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior) so we have to wait for one class to graduate before another can begin. Churches in other states cannot afford to send students to this state to study, so they are looking at establishing online classes.

We ask for prayers that God will use us and our gifts in our partnership with PC(USA) missionaries with the United Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

Prayers for West Africa — Josh Heikkila

Please pray for the countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, which are suffering from the outbreak of Ebola. Pray for Nigeria, which is suffering from violence because of Boko Haram. Thank you for your prayers.

Prayers for Madagascar — Douglas J. Tilton

Madagascar has been going through a difficult period since a coup d'état deposed of the elected president in March 2009. Pray for the leadership of both the country and our partner church, the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM), as they wrestle with the ongoing legacies of the coup, economic disruption, and damage inflicted on Madagascar's social fabric.

Give thanks for the rapid growth of the FJKM, which has planted, on average, a new congregation a week for the past 10 years and now has over 5 million members.

Continued on pg. 7



Guest Speaker Rev. Salam Hanna

Guest speaker Rev. Salam Hanna will join us for 8:00, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. worship services, in addition to Adult Education at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, October 5.

Rev. Hanna, international peace-maker, is pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Latakia and Director of the Relief & Rehabilitation Program for the National Evangelical Synod of Syria & Lebanon.

Community Conversations

Sundays, October 12 and 19, 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall A

We'll continue our *Community Conversations: Citizens of Faith* series with U.S. Senate candidates Todd Watson on October 12 and Ben Sasse on October 19. (Our speaker on September 28 was U.S. Senate candidate Dave Domina.) Both will share stories of his own faith and encourage discussion on current moral and civic ideas.

Faiths of the Post-War Presidents

Sunday, October 26 at 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall A

Dr. Ken Moore will continue his lectures on the faith legacies of US presidents, including Carter and Reagan.

Living the Questions

Sundays beginning October 26 at 9:00 a.m. Lounge

Living the Questions, led by Rev. Jen Strickland, is for both seekers and life-long churchgoers convinced of Christianity's relevance in the 21st Century. Explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith looks like today.

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, Oct. 1 at 10:00 a.m.
7132 South Street
Stanley Rediger (402-327-8946)

Circle 5

Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 10:00 a.m.
Westminster Lounge
Pat Hackley (402-423-2909)

Circle 4

Monday, Oct. 6 at 7:00 p.m.
7150 Holmes Lake Park Rd. #101
Annette Marquez (402-261-6738)

Circle 6

Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 7:00 p.m.
Westminster Library
Jane Hines (402-488-8302)

Mission Sewers

Wednesday, Oct. 22 at 1:00 p.m.
Westminster Lounge

Men's Tuesday Morning Breakfast

Join Westminster 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.

October 7

Bible Study

Rev. Andrew McDonald

October 14

Medical Mission to Kenya

Greg Hershberger

October 21

How God Is Addressing the Challenges of Crime Through Christ Centered Community Efforts

Robert Milligan

October 28

Bible Study

Westminster Bible Class

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

October 5

Rejoice Anyway

Habakkuk 2:1-5; 3:17-19

Bud Tenney

October 12

Even So, My Redeemer Lives

Job 19:1-7, 23-29

Bill North

October 19

Hope Complains

Job 24:1, 9-12, 19-25

October 26

Hope Satisfies

Job 42:1-10

2nd Sunday Lunch

October 12 at 11:30 a.m.

Join your WPC family for a **second helping** of fellowship on the **second Sunday** of each month! All WPC friends and families are invited to Cole Hall to enjoy a heaping plate of community and some delicious lunch too.

Lunch this month will feature DaVinci's pasta with choice of three sauces, rolls and salad. \$6/ adults, \$4/children 10 and under.

Don't have second thoughts; come enjoy 2nd Sundays at Westminster!

Spooktacular!

Sunday, October 26 4-6p.m.



Trunk-or-Treating, Games and More!
Westminster Parking Lot // FREE Community Event!

It's that spooky time of year again! All Westminster families are invited to this free community event on Sunday, October 26. Come in your costume join in the fun! Want to help? We are looking for people to deck-out their trunks and donate candy. Sign-up in the Garden Room through October or call the church office at (402) 472-6702.



Exploring Our Relationship with God!

Preschool through 5th Grade Sunday School meets after the Children's Conversation during 10:30 a.m. worship.

Faith Village 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. (K-5th Grade) Lower Level

October: Abraham and Sarah

God called Abraham and Sarah and all their descendents into a special relationship as people of God. God promised to be with them always just as God is with us today.

Faith Villagers begin each morning with a few songs and a chance to thank God for our blessings with an offering. Offering envelopes are available for kids to take home. Parents are encouraged to help their children make this a regular part of their Sunday morning routine. After large group time, children are divided into age groups and head off to workshops which all center around a common theme.

I will bless you and make you and your name famous, so that you will be a blessing... Through you I will bless all nations.

Genesis 12:2-3

Preschool Story Time 9:00 a.m. Room 210

Children will join Jennifer McCollough for a Bible Story or two, an activity and lots of community building through play.

Kindergarten of Eden 10:45 a.m. (Preschool) Room 210

Welcome to WEE Believe!

Our theme for Fall 2014 is *We Belong to God*. Young children will learn about God's love for them and that God loves them no matter what. Most of the Bible stories will be explored for two sessions. We do this so that young children have the opportunity to learn through repetition. Some stories we will cover this Fall include Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Hannah and David.

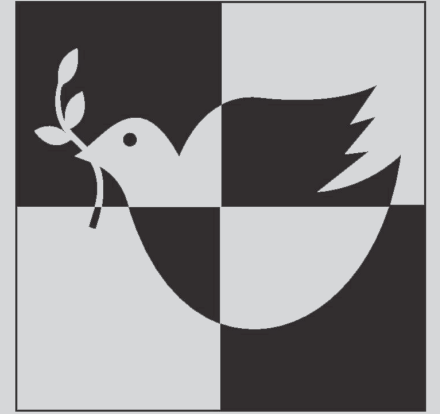
Thank You to Our Bike Fair Donors!

We had more than 30 children participate in our Bike Fair & Rodeo! Through drills and quizzes, kids learned safety skills in a fun way. Funds were raised for Lincoln's Bike Kitchen and the international organization 88Bikes. It was a great partnership with other community organizations! Special thanks to:

Sunmart, Runza, Piezano's, Leon's, Joyride Bicycles, Cycleworks, Polka Dot Bicycles, The Bike Rack, Screen Ink, Frames For You, Prescott PTO, Great Plains Trail Network, Mike Heyl (Lancaster Co. Health Department), Bob Boyce (Great Plains Bicycle Club)

Pictured at left: Children from throughout the neighborhood line up to test their bike riding skills by weaving through a set of cones.

FAITH



BUILDING BLOCKS

Learning to Use My Bible

Third graders and a parent are invited to an interactive class on Wednesday, October 15, at 6:30 p.m. following WOW dinner. All third graders who participate will receive Bibles at 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday, October 19.

Signs of Faith

First graders and a parent are invited to come explore symbols, an important element of Christian faith! On Wednesday, November 5, at 6:30 p.m. following WOW dinner, families will explore the meaning of these faith symbols and tour the Sanctuary and Chapel on a Symbol Scavenger Hunt.

Knit N Sit From Home

Looking for more ways to give? With the weather turning cooler, your handmade hats and scarves will be greatly appreciated by those in need this winter!

Knit N Sit, a Westminster Small Group, has started a Knit at Home ministry inviting individuals to knit, crochet or do needlework from home and contribute their work to the Knit N Sit donation to People's City Mission in the Fall.

All levels of experience are welcome! The need is great, and this is a wonderful opportunity for people to create and give from their hearts from their home.

For more information about this home ministry or Knit N Sit, please contact Francy Scheele at (402) 477-1102.

Have YOU signed-up to volunteer?

neighbors
HELPING
neighbors

Saturday, October 11
8:00 a.m. Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Project Site

Have you signed-up in the Garden Room to participate in this year's Neighbors Helping Neighbors? This congregation-wide day of service is a great way to help our neighbors in the Lincoln community. Due to the many requests we've received this year, we'll also offer volunteer opportunities on Sunday, October 12. Current project sites include:

Mourning Hope Fall cleanup (6-10 volunteers)

Clinic with a Heart Door-to-door packets (10 people)

CEDARS Hang drywall (3-4 volunteers)

The Bridge Build a wall

Matt Talbot Prepare and serve Noon meal (8 volunteers)

Fresh Start Paint bathroom and yard work (4-6 volunteers)

Meals on Wheels Minor home repair and yard work (6-8 volunteers)

Lancaster County Stream cleanup (6-8 volunteers) / Hazardous waste dropsite

Kids Against Hunger Package food (1:30 to 3:30 p.m.) Suggested financial donation of \$30/person or \$60/family to cover food costs

Friendship Home Safe Quarters Gather door-to-door donations (8-10 volunteers)

For more information and to sign-up, stop by the Garden Room table or call the church office at (402) 475-6702.

Continued from pg. 2

Prayers for Honduras — Tim and Gloria Wheeler, Honduras

Thank you for writing to us about prayer concerns. Please pray for families in remote and isolated communities in rural Honduras who are working hard to obtain some degree of food security. Raise up these people who are trying to improve their lives by working together, with the assistance of programs we are involved in, so they might obtain some peace and comfort in their lives.

Prayers for Romania — Elizabeth Searles

Our first prayer is for peace in Ukraine. Our second is that the Russian occupation of Moldova will not draw Romania into direct military confrontation.

Pray for our ministry. We minister to children of trauma and currently care for more than 450 youth. We are also celebrating a new Learning Center for kids near a large orphanage, continuing support from our University students, and growing numbers in our high school Bible studies.

Prayers for Thailand — Barry and Shelley

We are delighted that the people of Westminster are thinking about and praying for global mission workers and our global mission partners.

Christians in many countries in Southeast Asia are persecuted for their faith. There is a great need for pastoral training and leadership development for indigenous leaders for church communities. In Vietnam and Laos, many Christians meet in house churches, due to restrictive government policies. Please pray that God will provide ways for house church leaders and local pastors to receive education training and leadership development courses.

The people in many Southeast Asian countries experience wide-scale corruption in business and governments. Please pray that all governments throughout Southeast Asia will govern with wisdom, justice, and peace for all citizens.

Prayers for East Asia — Rev. Choon S. Lim

Please pray for Nanjing, China's new PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer program in 2015. Pray for the Korean Christian Federation and Bongsoo Church's Bread Factory in Pyongyang, to whom we donated 30 tons of flour. Ask God for our safety in North Korea as we travel.

All in the Family

Best wishes to **Mary Thompson** and **Drew Hofferber** who were married on September 19.

Congratulations to Katie and Stuart Martens on the birth of **Zoe Michele** born May 23, and Lori and Ben Heinish on the birth of **Thomas Paul** born July 29.

Foundation Birthday Club

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

Debbie Benesch

Fern Bieck

Mary-Ann Clinton

Jeanne Cuda

Lynn Davis

Martha Dennis

Todd Gumm

Kevin Harford

Jane Hines

John Hoppe Jr.

Al Landfield

Marilyn Maude

Sandy Sostad

Ginny Welty

Tom Winter

Shalla Young

Small Groups Ministry

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.

Upcoming Small Groups

Tour de Friends

Sunday, Oct. 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Meet at Shopko (Hwy 2 and 27th street) trail. Decide on trail and ride distance that afternoon. Paved.

Thursday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m.

Ride to Pioneers Park and enjoy the Fall colors! Meet at 6th and J streets (Mill Towne parking lot). Salt Creek Levee to Bison Trail, then to Pioneers Park. Approx. 12 miles round-trip. Paved and crushed stone trails. Judy and H Seward leading (402-202-5839).

November Tour de Friends

Tour de Friends will continue rides into November, but due to limited daylight, will ride the first and third Sunday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. (November 2 and 16). Keep your ride suggestions coming!

small Westminster
groups

Silver Screenings Small Group forming!

Are you a movie enthusiasts looking to share in the thrill of new cinema releases? Join Westminster's newest small group Silver Screenings! Members will suggest movies at various locations, dates and times, and an email blast will be sent out to the group. Carpooling and after-movie discussions may be a consideration too. If you want to be part of this group, contact Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com to be put on the email list.

The Answer to Bad Religion Is Not No Religion

Our Small Group book study has launched, but you're still welcome to join a group if you haven't already. Looking for a Sunday morning group? Erika Schafer will lead a group on Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. through November 2 in Room 210A. Reading each week is encouraged, but not required. For more information, email Small Groups moderator Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 11:30 a.m.

Join us at Pizza Ranch (8420 Lexington Ave.) for Lunch Bunch! All ages welcome. RSVP by email to larrywieskamp@yahoo.com.

History Buffs

Saturday, Oct. 11 at 9:00 a.m.

Join us for "A History of Medicine (Hippocrates to Penicillin)" presented by Bruce Sheffield, M.D.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 1:00 p.m.

All book enthusiasts are invited to help us create a reading list for 2015. Come with your suggestions and be ready for some lively discussions.

Faith & Cancer

Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Faith & Cancer will continue its study of *Finding the Light in Cancer's Shadow*.

Ladies' Night Out

Thursday, Oct. 23 at 5:00 p.m.

Stop by PieZano's (2740 South St.) for fun and conversation! Parking is limited, so please park in the WPC parking lot and walk the short distance. No RSVP required; bring a friend and stop by at your leisure!

Westminster Club

Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Refreshments, dinner and programming! Greg Hershberger will share his experiences working in mission in Africa. Bring your own table service. Cost is \$10.

High School Youth Secret Room Tour

Have you ever heard about the secret rooms hidden around Westminster? High School Youth are invited on a tour of the church to find out if they're real or not! Youth leader Claire Eckstrom and member Maggie Stuckey will lead the tour on Sunday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m.

What's been going on in Confirmation?

During the first two months of confirmation, we have been learning about who we are as Presbyterians and what we believe. We are learning that we are a Christian denomination that encourages questioning, self-reflection, concern for others and action. In order to claim our own faith, we are working hard on creating rituals of being Christian, which include not only our own study, but also increasing our activity in mission, fellowship and worship. The confirmands are completing worship worksheets for each service they attend, are encouraged to attend all social events and will participate in one mission project per semester. — Christy Dempsey, Confirmation leader

Dates to Remember

October 1 (6:30 p.m.)

Faith Statement Workshop

October 11 (8:00 a.m.)

Mission Opportunity —Neighbors
Helping Neighbors

October 19 (7:00 p.m.)

High School Church Tour

October 26 (4:00 p.m.)

Spooktacular

Every Wednesday (6:30 p.m.)

WOW XL and High School Youth
Group



Senior High and Middle School Youth went rock climbing at the Boy Scout Council Building in Walton, Nebraska, last month. Pictured above are Katie Whitehead, Brady Jex, Abby Peterson, Audrey Smith, Liam Dempsey, Allison Larson, and Jampe Gergen.

Worship & Music Ministry

Wednesday Night Ensembles

All Wednesday night rehearsals are part of our regularly scheduled WOW activities.

Westminster Carillon

Sanctuary (6:20 to 7:20 p.m.)
High School youth and older

Cherub Choir

Room 210E (6:30 to 7:25 p.m.)
Ages 3 to pre-K

Alleluia! Amen!

Room 210 (6:30 to 7:25 p.m.)
Kindergarten to Grade 5

Westminster Choir

Sanctuary (7:30 to 9:00 p.m.)
(and Sundays 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.)
High school youth and older

Other Ensembles

These ensembles practice intermittently throughout the year.

Jr. Strings Ensemble

Violin, viola, cello and double bass.
Grades 3 to 12 Sundays 10:00 to 10:20
a.m. in the Chapel

Westminster Brass

High school youth and older

“Oh Me, O My, O Nehemiah!”

Children's Musical October 26, 10:30 a.m. worship service

The story of Nehemiah teaches us the importance of prayer and service to God. Children ages 3 through Grade 5 are called to gather their voices. If you are interested in helping with costumes, sets and/or props, contact Masako Bacon at masako@westminsterlincoln.org.

Christmas Pageant Auditions October 29, 6:30 p.m.

Children ages 3 through Grade 5 will dramatize a story about the wonder of Jesus' birth. They will share this pageant on December 14 at 10:30 a.m. worship.

University of Nebraska—Lincoln Varsity Men's Chorus

Sunday, November 9 at 10:30 a.m. worship

One of the finest men's chorus in this country will be coming to share their voices at Westminster. They have appeared on regional and national convention programs. Dr. Pete Eklund, director, is a nationally recognized conductor and composer.

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westminsterlincoln.org**

WOW!

WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAYS!

Need a night to unwind this Fall from the hustle and bustle of school activities and work meetings? 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

Prayer Lab

(Wednesdays in October)

One of the gifts of faith is the ability to communicate with our Creator. How is your prayer experience? What if there are ways to pray that you don't know but might like? For this series, we'll discuss prayer with one another, as well as material from *Prayer, Conversing with God* and *50 Ways to Pray*.

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.

October 1: Spaghetti, garlic bread sticks

October 8: Chicken and rice soup, cheese toast

October 15: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, green beans

October 22: Chili and baked potato, cinnamon roll

October 29: Ghoulish goulash, ladies' fingers and spider cakes

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



2110 Sheridan Blvd.
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westminsterlincoln.org

The *rising*

an alternative worship experience

If you've attended The Rising, you know how fun and moving contemporary Christian music can be! If you have a passion for this type of music and would like to be involved, let us know! We are seeking qualified musicians to help each

week, specifically vocalists, guitarists, keyboardists, drummers, and sound and visual assistants. To explore these opportunities, contact lead vocalist Jana Miller at jana@westminsterlincoln.org. The Rising takes place every Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Reminders: Bring your pledge card to worship on **Consecration Sunday** on October 26.

Mark your calendar for our annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** on Thursday, November 6, at 6:30 p.m. We'll enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast, along with special music and presentation. Let's celebrate God's love for us all in a show of Thanksgiving!