



THE MESSENGER

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Angels and Surveys

The book of Revelation can easily been mistranslated. Nevertheless, it is a wonderful vision. It begins with messages to seven churches. Or more to the point, to “the angel” of each of seven churches. Angel means “messenger.” Which means each church has a “messenger.” Which means each church has a “messenger: who is to communicate the guidance God gives.

What is fascinating about Revelation is that some of the angels give a clear, strong message. Other angels seem to have lost their original focus. To all these churches, the Spirit of God gives inspiration and challenge: remember the things that are most important!

We are seeking to learn what the “angel/messenger” of Westminster is saying right now, so we can discern where we go next. We are not on Revelation’s island of Patmos, we are not seeking God’s guidance in an ecstatic dream. What we do have is a survey.

This survey will be available at worship over the next three Sundays. We would like every member to fill one out. It will help us learn where our strengths are and where we need to put increased effort.

This survey comes from the professional consulting group, Evolve Performance Group. Their services are being donated by a senior partner, Emily Killham. We are grateful to her for the survey and the expertise to interpret it. When the results are in, the congregation will hear about this in various formats, including adult classes, sermons, leadership groups, and this newsletter.

We are open to the Spirit of God, who speaks to the church in many ways. This survey will help guide us into a strong future. The season of Lent is a time for Christians to examine themselves, and look for God’s Easter surprise—a new beginning. It fits so well to have this survey come in this time of self-examination.

I encourage every member to come to worship, fill out a survey, and help us in discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us now. Your participation will be a blessing.

Sincerely,

Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor

The Gathering Place



In May of 1982, The Gathering Place opened its doors at 1448 E St in Lincoln, NE. Originally designed as a hospitality center, its mission, according to one of the original founders, was to establish a house that could be turned into a place “where anyone with special concern for the poor, elderly, lonely, homeless, hungry, differently abled, and disenfranchised would feel welcome.” The Gathering Place founders envisioned the house as a place where people from all walks of life could be in the fellowship of one another so as to fill a void in the spiritual community in Lincoln.

Within the doors of the cozy, brick home built in 1906, The Gathering Place offered its guests multiple ways to feel welcome and accepted: lunches were served Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., coffee and dessert were served from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and classes, seminars, workshops, one-to-one counseling, spiritual direction, consciousness raising and self-help groups were offered to all who may benefit. But two years after its opening, the Gathering Place founders recognized the growing problem of hunger, homelessness, and social isolation among low-income people in Lincoln. To respond to this need, The Gathering Place transformed from a hospitality center into what it is currently – a soup kitchen.

Now in its 33rd year, The Gathering Place is a program of Community Action and serves nearly 30,000 meals annually to those who face hunger in Lincoln. Evening meals are served Monday through Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and bread and fresh produce are distributed two nights a week. This important work is made possible through the hard work and dedication of over 1,700 volunteers annually, and contributions from the community. Westminster has had a team of Gathering Place volunteers for a number of years, as part of our outreach in the Lincoln community, serving on the second Friday of the month. Each month the call goes out for a team of four to six people to arrive at 4:45 p.m. and serve the meal that has been prepared. Westminster member Michael Ryan is the Administrator and Chef at the soup kitchen. There is room for YOU in this ministry of outreach in this local mission, and you are invited to inquire about this opportunity and/or volunteer by contacting Carolyn Harp at 402-261-6897 or charp3@neb.rr.com.



Westminster Food Pantry

Do not forget Westminster always needs help filling our cupboards to fill our list of weekly items we send out each week. Here is a sampling of items we send out each week: toilet tissue, pancake syrup, hand soap, oatmeal, sugar, soda crackers, rice, dry noodles, cans of tuna, canned fruit, instant potatoes, cans of soup, spaghetti sauce. Be sure to drop items by the donation box (at the top of the stairs at the east entrance) when you come to church.



Adopt an Egg

Eggs are available for adoption at the East Entrance. Stop by after worship and grab a bag (or two) of empty eggs and help us fill them for our March 26th Easter event. Eggs can be filled with pre-packaged candy, toys, tattoos, stickers, etc. Please return the eggs to the bins provided at the East Entrance by March 20th. Thanks for your help and supporting this great event!

Presale of Cinnamon Rolls

We are just weeks away from the Annual Easter Breakfast. For the Sundays prior to Easter, the Westminster Deacons will be conducting the annual presale of cinnamon rolls. One dozen rolls is \$9.00 or you can get two dozen for \$17.00. Stop by the Garden Room table to reserve your delicious cinnamon rolls or call the church office at 402-475-6702.

Fellowship Volunteering Needed for The Annual Easter Breakfast Weekend March 26th and 27th

Ask any Westminster member who has ever served as Deacon and they will tell you the fun and fellowship enjoyed while helping to pull off one of the most delicious church-wide events of the year -The Annual Easter Breakfast! You do not have to be a Deacon, or even have ever been a Deacon, to help with the event. Everyone is welcome! A variety of shifts and jobs are available on Saturday, March 26th for set-up and prep, and on Sunday, March 27th—sign up and bring a friend. To join the fun, please contact April Douglas at ajdouglas7929@gmail.com or 402-429-6702, or contact Pastor Jen.

Easter Eggstravaganza March 26th from 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Please join us on March 26th from 10 - 11:30 a.m. 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 be offering a peanut free room. Please mark your calendars and join us for this great event.



Lincoln Interfaith Peacemaking Coalition

The Lincoln Interfaith Peacemaking Coalition will celebrate 30 years of peacemaking events and services with the 2016 Peacemaking conference. Dawn Engle, a 2015 Nobel Peace Prize nominee will be this year's feature speaker. She created the "1 Billion Acts of Peace by 2018" campaign in 2014. This year's event will be held at 3:00 PM Sunday afternoon April 3rd at the Railyard in the Haymarket (just behind the old downtown post office).



The coalition has created a website (lincolnpeacemakers.com; click on Make it Count) and Facebook; Lincoln Peacemakers, dedicated to gather 10,000 Acts of Peace in the Lincoln area by April 3rd. You can support this effort by registering your acts of peace. Our 10,000 acts of Peacemaking will be included in the 1 Billion Acts of Peace.

The Mission Yearbook of Prayer

The Mission Yearbook of Prayer is online only now. It can be accessed by typing in "Mission Yearbook of Prayer." Daily devotions, stories of churches to pray for here in the United States and information from mission co-workers in other areas of the world are available each day. You can also sign up to automatically receive this information daily via email.

Westminster on Wednesday (WOW)

Join us weekly for great food, education, music and more!

Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in Cole Hall.

\$4/children, \$6/adults, \$17 max per family.

Lenten Meditation (6:20 Chapel) Lent is a time of deep reflections. This year, we will be exploring a particular group of Psalms: Psalms of lament. Join us on this journey toward Easter.

WOWXL (6:40 Youth Cafe) Youth in grades 6-8 meet weekly during the school year for engaging activities and to grow in faith together.

Knit N Sit (6:30) Come knit, crochet, learn either craft, or do other projects for the church. Women, and men of all ages are welcome to attend this fluid group.

Adult Education: (6:45-7:30) Join us as we explore, in depth, each day of Holy Week using, *The Last Week* by Borg and Crossan as our guide. Pastor Jen will lead. **March 2:** Thursday and Friday; **March 9:** Death over Dinner Discussion at 7:00 (Carmela's Bistro 4141 Pioneer Woods Dr); **March 16:** Saturday and Sunday; **March 23:** No Class—Holy Week; **March 30:** Share in the adventure! Pastor Jen, Ken Moore, Susan Moore and Harold Bowen will speak about the trip to Nicaragua from January.

Music Rehearsals

(6:40) Westminster Carillon (Adult Handbell Choir, Sanctuary)

(6:40) Cherub Choir (age 3-Kindergarten, Room 210E)

(6:40) Alleluia! Amen! Choir (Grade 1-5, Room 210)

(7:40) Westminster Choir (Adult Choir, Sanctuary)

March WOW Dinners

March 2: Pasta and Garlic Bread Sticks

March 9: **Spring Break—No Classes**

March 16: Chicken & Stuffing Casserole with
Green Beans

March 23: Soup and Baked Potato

March 30: Taco/Nacho Bar

GET READY FOR DRAMA CAMP

March 7-11, 2016

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Missoula Children's Theatre is returning to Westminster! Over spring break, children K-6th grade are welcome to join WPC's 5th annual Drama Camp! This year's production, *Rumpelstiltskin*, is produced in partnership



with Missoula Children's Theatre, the nation's largest touring children's theater group. Children will enjoy education in theatre topics such as: characterization, music, staging, movement, and more!

Register online at www.westminsterlincoln.org.

Children & Families Ministry

Sundays at 9:00 a.m., K-5th grade are invited to learn through teachings involving art, music, storytelling and games. We will talk about the "Woman at the Tomb" and prepare for the resurrection of Christ.

Each week our Kindergarten of Eden preschool friends meet in Room 210 at 10:45. They will explore stories from the Bible, learning about God's world and their place in it using the Growing in Grace and Gratitude curriculum. We believe this foundation of faith and love will shepherd them as they learn and grow.

In Faith Village, the K-5th grade is engaged in a rotating workshop model each Sunday beginning at 10:45 a.m. During the month of March, our kids will explore the miraculous Easter Story. Reflecting on the "Woman at the Tomb," they will focus on Christ's resurrection and how we can prepare our hearts in this season.

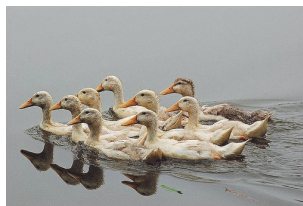
We invite you to bring your children to Sunday School to grow in the light of our Creator!

Our Children's Fall 2015 Offering!



Faith Village is proud to announce the \$140 collected in our offering well was used toward purchasing a goat, as well as a flock of ducks! Heifer International has been Faith Village's choice of offering for a few years now. In the past, we have given water buffalo, goat, and pig.

In December Sonia Harford, parent volunteer, explained how children in other parts of the world do not go to the store for their milk, but most likely get their milk from a goat. Goat milk is the only milk known to over half the world's population. An average goat produces over 10x its body weight each year in milk. That is almost 1 ton of milk per year!



We raised enough money this Fall to also purchase a flock of ducks. Ducks are more popular in Asia than in the West. They are raised extensively in China for their eggs and down. Ducks are omnivores, eating a variety of food sources such as grass, aquatic plants, fish and worms, but they can also rid farms of pesky weeds and insects. For millions of children around the world, it is duck eggs that provide the cornerstone of a healthy diet. They are also sold for income to pay for medicine and school fees.

All in the Family

Birth: Congratulations to Nyakoang Jony and Gatluak Gach on the birth of Mat Rik, born January 30th.

Marriages: Best wishes to Carmen Erway and Erick Petersen who were married on January 23rd, and to Emma Newkirk and Derrick Steinacher who were married on February 13th.

Bereavement: Comfort for the family and friends of Jeanette Alexis, who died on January 13th, and Sara Jane Walters, who died on February 15th.

Foundation Birthdays February

Nancy Delgado
Rex Martin
Bob Morey
Gary Moulton
Matt Olson
George Peterson
Sue Shamblin
Lee Sonderegger
Marge Young

Adult Education on Sundays

March's focus is: "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Henri Nouwen. Inspired by Rembrandt's painting of the prodigal son, Nouwen explores our call to love as the father and be loved as the son. Classes will be led by Dr. Ken Moore. All are welcome to attend this Sunday morning class at 9 am in the Parlor.

March 6:	The Younger Son
March 13:	The Elder Son
March 20:	The Merciful Father



Westminster Bible Class

The class focus in March is on the sayings and actions of Jesus as found in the Gospels of Mark and Luke providing us with a close-up of Jesus' ministries with people. Throughout, we will see Jesus' gracious compassion to those in need. Our first unit titled "Tests of Faith" will focus on Mark's account of Jesus' life. Taught by Pastor Ellen Davis.

March 6:	Mark 9:14-29 and Mark 10:17-31 "Powerful Faith; Simple Faith"
March 13:	Mark 14:26-31, 66-72 "Struggling Faith"
March 20:	Mark 16:1-8 "Resurrection Faith"

Westminster Club Meeting

Tuesday March 22nd at 5:30 P.M.
Catered dinner is \$10 per person
Topic: The life of author, missionary and nurse
Patricia St. John
Presented by: Mary Ann Bede

A gathering of members and friends will meet. St. John was known as one of the most prolific British Protestant evangelical writers of fiction in the latter part of the 20th century.

Lenten "Death Over Dinner" Discussion

Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 P.M.
Carmela's Bistro (4141 Pioneer Woods Dr #110)
Led by: Pastor Jennifer Strickland

As we prepare for Holy Week, join us for a discussion about death, it can be one of the most difficult, yet important, conversations we can have. Pastor Jen will guide us through this challenging topic over dinner. Suitable for all ages and walks of life, this conversation will be one of deep engagement, insight and empowerment. To make reservations and receive the reading/listening materials, email Pastor Jen at jen@westminsterlincoln.org.

Upcoming Events & small groups



Lunch Bunch

March 1st—11:30 a.m.

Chevys Fresh Mex — 5500 S 56th St

All men and women are welcome

History Buffs

Saturday, March 12th

9:00 am

Topic: "Civil War Medicine

Ken Winkle, the acclaimed Abraham Lincoln biographer and Civil War historian who is a professor of History at UNL will be our speaker. We welcome all who have a passion for history.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, March 16

1 pm in Westminster's Parlor

Book: *Backstage: Stories from my life in Public Broadcasting* By: Ron Hall

The author will be present to talk about his experiences in the early days of public broadcasting, especially Nebraska's cutting edge work in establishing our state's public television from the ground up. All are welcome.

For a list of current Small Groups, contact Geoff Cline at geoffcline@mac.com.

Men's Tuesday Breakfast

Meets at 7 am in the Parlor.

March 1: Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald

March 8: Tom Casady speaking on Pulse Point Alert Program

March 15: Jim White speaking on Life and wit of the late Will Rogers

March 22: Ernie Hines speaking on Easter Bible study

March 29: Ken Govaerts speaking on Memories of a Nebraska farm boy

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

Circle 3

Wednesday, March 2

10:00 a.m.

Mary Beth Johnson

Circle 4

Monday, March 7

7 :00 p.m.

June Blatt

3727 Chapin Circle

402-314-6222

Circle 5

Tuesday, March 8

10 :00 a.m.

Pat Hackley

Circle 6

Tuesday, March 22

7:00 p.m.

Jane Hines



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GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.
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westminsterlincoln.org



Worship Invitation

Join us in worship as we celebrate Christ being our Risen Lord!

Palm Sunday: March 20th

Palm parade with children to remember Jesus's entrance in Jerusalem and remembering his journey to Calvary with "Requiem" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Summit String Quartet (Kim Osborne Salistean, Donna Carnes, Cindy Ricker, and Tracy Sands) will help celebrate this dramatic Sunday.

Maundy Thursday: March 24th at 7 pm (Sanctuary)

Worship focusing on Jesus' Last Supper. Communion will be served.

Good Friday: March 25th at Noon (Chapel) and 7 pm (Sanctuary)

Easter Worship March 27th

Alleluia! He is risen! Join us for an Easter Celebration:

7 am (Chapel) - Dean Haist, trumpet

9 & 11 am (Sanctuary) - Nebraska Brass, Westminster Carillon, & Westminster Choir

10 am (Chapel - Contemporary) - The Rising Band

Noon (Chapel-Sudanese)

Westminster Annual Easter Breakfast

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 27, from 8 am to noon in Fellowship Hall.

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