



## NEW MUSIC DIRECTORS:

### Welcome to Westminster John & Laura!

In the Vatican, they put a puff of smoke out the chimney when they've voted on a new pope. It's a great visual image. I think we need to blast the city tornado horn to celebrate that the Music Director Search Committee has found their candidate. In fact, we have two candidates for Director of Music and Associate Director of Music.

First, let me say we put the word out formally and informally, and had candidates apply from all over the U.S. and a couple of foreign countries. It was exciting to see the quality of the candidates who were interested. After reviewing all of the qualifications and having Skype interviews with several, the Search Committee unanimously choose John and Laura Ross. Laura has her Master of Music in Organ Performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She also has a B.A. in Organ Performance from the University of Nebraska. She has served at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, OH; Trinity United Methodist in Lincoln, NE; Christ Episcopal in Elbridge, NY; and Our Lady of Angels in Plano TX.

John Ross has his Master of Music and Bachelor of Arts in Organ Performance from the University of Nebraska. He has served at Old Stone Church in Cleveland, OH; Apollo's Fire, Cleveland OH; First United Methodist, Lincoln, NE; and Our Savior's Lutheran in Lincoln. Both John and Laura both currently serve at Christ United Methodist in Lincoln. John has computer skills that he is currently using on the staff of the University of Nebraska that will be of significant help in a number of technology areas at Westminster.

They both have wonderful gifts in organ music and a great understanding of leadership in terms of choir, bells, strings, brass and other musical groups. The committee was impressed with the depth and breadth of their musical skills. It was also evident how well they work together as a team. They love traditional music, and are open to sharing new musical experiences that will help us move into the future.

Personally, the committee found them both warm and engaging. They understand what it means to work on a staff team, and are eager to share in the creative events that take place here. They have been aware of Westminster for many years, and dreamed of sharing their gifts of music here. It is my delight to introduce them to you, as I think they will fulfill our musical dreams as we move into the future.

They will begin on August 1st. You will have opportunities to meet them then. We look forward to a long, wonderful relationship, filled with exciting sacred music experiences. Welcome John and Laura!

Sincerely,  
Andrew McDonald, Senior Pastor



## CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS

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**From Lohmen**



**to Lincoln**

This July Westminster will be hosting ten visitors from our sister church in Lohmen, Germany—men and women, boys and girls, 13 to 60 years old—and they ALL speak English. They will stay with Westminster families and fill their days with sightseeing, recreation, a couple short mission projects, and eating—lots of eating! Come join in the fun at one or more of these all-church events.

### **A German Cookout**

**Sunday, July 16th, 5:30, at the home of Steve and Susie Hughes, 8825 West Branched Oak Road, Raymond**

Enjoy bratwurst and other German fare prepared by our visitors, very likely followed by some German after-dinner entertainment. This family friendly gathering is free, a gift to Westminster from our visitors who are hoping that “lots of people” will come. Sign up in the Garden Room by July 9th so they’ll know how much food to prepare, and remember to bring your own lawn chairs. Guten Appetit!

### **Play Ball with Homer’s Heroes**

**Saturday, July 15th, 9:00—10:45 am, Meet at Lewis Field (across from Lincoln High); return to church about 10:45.**

Volunteer an hour or two for this unique opportunity for kids with special needs to play America’s favorite pastime. Help a base runner or fielder, explain the game to a German visitor, or just cheer loudly. It takes over a hundred volunteers to run the four games that are played concurrently every Saturday.

### **A Picnic and a Mermaid**

**Saturday, July 15 | 6:30 pm | Pinewood Bowl in Pioneers Park.**

Help introduce our German friends to a delightful Lincoln tradition. Share in a potluck picnic with fried chicken courtesy of your Hostamania contributions, then sit back under the stars and enjoy a live performance of Disney’s Little Mermaid. Sign up in the Garden Room by July 2nd for details and to get the early discount on your tickets—children (5 to 12 years old) \$5; adults \$12. Parking is free.

### **Elkhorn River Float Trip**

**Meet at the church Monday, July 17th, 9:00 am; return about 3:00 pm.**

Spend a leisurely four or five hours tubing, eating, dozing, and splashing on the safe and scenic Elkhorn River. We’ll carpool to Waterloo to park and let the outfitters transport us six miles upstream to start our float. Register in the Garden Room by Sunday, July 9th. Cost of \$20-\$25 covers all equipment and fees.



# CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS

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## Annual Book Sale

**August 20-27 — Save the date**

Look again! Does the new calendar page really say "July" already? You know what's coming next, don't you? **AUGUST!!** That means the beginning of all the fall activities, and at Westminster that includes the **Annual Book Sale**. So start now, checking your closets and shelves for books, DVDs, games, puzzles, and whatever else you'd like to donate. Donations accepted any time before August 16. The sooner, the better! Just leave items in the library (bagged or boxed, please) marked for the book sale -- we'll take it from there. Thanks for your support!

## Welcome to Westminster. We're glad you're here!

**New Members:** Ingrid Anderson, Evan and Jane Ellenwood, Sylvia Hulce, Dennis Pentz, Carl and Carolyn Plants, Blake and Danae Sandusky.



## ALL IN THE FAMILY

**Marriages:** Scarlett Howerter and Logan Molina who were married on June 3; Julia Otte and Scott Gaebler who were married on June 10; Mickey Rostad and Kane Hincey who were married on June 17.

**Birth:** Congratulations to Danae and Blake Sandusky on the birth of Everett Porter, born May 20.

**Bereavement:** Comfort for the family and friends of Gretchen Hancock who died on June 30.

## FOUNDATION BIRTHDAYS

The following contributed to the Foundation in honor of their June Birthday:

Steve Carveth, Christy Dempsey, Lyudmila Fomina, Carol Jean Glenn, Pat Hackley, Dan Hoffman, Marcia Hollestelle, Sandy Howerter, Stu Howerter, Jim Kinkennon, Ginger Nissen, Bill Roberts and Jane Voorhies.



## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

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### **WESTMINSTER LOVES CHILDREN!**

Show your love for our little ones by giving a bit of yourself to nurture them in their faith. Teaching doesn't have to be your strength to make a huge impact on our children's growing knowledge of God. Opportunities range widely in time and type of commitment. Helping is simpler than ever as we try to find a good fit for you. Please consider saying "YES" — as it will warm your heart! Contact Barbara at 402-475-6702.

### **Summer Sunday School: July 2– August 13**

During the summer months, those in our Kindergarten of Eden who are 3 years old or younger will meet in the toddler room at 10:45 AM. Regular Sunday School will resume on Genesis Sunday, August 20.

**Faith Village** Our 3 and 4 year old preschool friends continue to join our K-5<sup>th</sup> grade for our summer video/ lesson series, *Character Builders*, based on the Fruit of the Spirit. We will go to the Faith Village theatre following the Children's Conversation at 10:30 worship. Parents may pick up their children following worship in the gym or at the theatre. We invite adults and youth to sign up for a week or two to stay with the children and follow a brief, simple lesson plan. Two are needed each week. Our children will learn important spiritual truths through heart-warming stories and entertaining songs and characters in these fun-filled videos!

### **VBS HERO CENTRAL MISSION PROJECT WRAP-UP!**

70 young heroes met to "Discover Their Strength in God" under the guidance of "Super" adult and youth volunteers. Their mission project was "The Shoe that Grows".



Sandals that grow five sizes and last for years. **Our young heroes provided \$314.17 this week—enough for 21 pairs of shoes!** Kudos, Heroes! "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" —Psalm 34:14b



## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

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### Westminster Preschool recognized for quality care

Westminster Preschool has been recognized by Nebraska Step Up to Quality for its commitment to quality child care and education. Westminster Preschool is the first child care center in the state of Nebraska to achieve the highest quality standard rating (5). Step Up to Quality programs go beyond state licensing requirements to better serve the needs of young children and their families and to prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond.

With 90 percent of brain development occurring before age 5, early child care and education is crucial to a child's future success.

Early learning builds the foundation for skills needed in school, work and life. Studies show that children who receive quality early child care and education are more likely to show improved reading and math skills, attend college and earn higher wages.

While the majority of Nebraskans believe quality early child care is very important, only 10 percent strongly agree that young children in our state are prepared to be successful when they begin kindergarten, according a survey conducted by Buffett Early Childhood Institute and Gallup. Parents believe their local providers could do better when it comes to quality – only 15 percent are very satisfied with the quality of programs where they live.



**Westminster Preschool teachers recognized by Nebraska Step Up to Quality for its commitment to quality child care and education.**

"It is crucial that providers and educators across the state have a mutual understanding of what quality looks like in the child care environment and that they feel supported on their path to quality," said Lauri Cimino, director of Step Up to Quality. "Programs enrolled in Step Up to Quality have access to coaching and resources that enable any provider – big or small – to take quality to the next level."

Step Up to Quality supports all types of early child care and education programs, including licensed family child care homes and child care centers, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, public school-operated early childhood programs and community preschools.

To learn more about Step Up to Quality, visit [stepuptoquality.ne.gov](http://stepuptoquality.ne.gov).



# ADULT EDUCATION & BIBLE CLASS

SUNDAY MORNINGS | 9 am

## Adult Education

### July 9 – “Transformative Spiritual Experiences” by Steve Larson

Paul’s conversion on the road to Damascus is widely recognized as one of the most dramatic spiritual experiences in the Bible. What are transformative spiritual experiences? What is their purpose? This session explores some of the consequential spiritual experiences in the Old and New Testaments as well as more recent conversions. Join us as we seek to understand these dramatic spiritual phenomena and what they mean for us today.

### July 16 – “The Best of Both Worlds: How the Lincoln/Lohmen Partnership Strengthens Us” by Rev. Michael Schleinitz, Lohmen Pastor

Westminster Presbyterian Church has enjoyed a partnership with our sister church in Lohmen, Germany for nearly 30 years. This partnership began before the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. Over the years, many youth and adults have traveled between the two churches. In July, a new generation of youth from Lohmen will visit Lincoln. Join us on as Rev. Michael Schleinitz, the Lohmen pastor, speaks to the mutual benefits of this long-term relationship.

### Celebrating the 500-Year Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation

The publication of The Ninety-Five Theses by Martin Luther in 1517 is considered the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. Join us in July and August as we commemorate the 500-year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will explore the historical context of the Reformation and the role that Luther, Calvin, and Knox played in this transformative movement. The series will culminate with a discussion of what defines and distinguishes the Presbyterian church from other denominations. Come learn about the historical heritage of your faith!

### July 23 “The Historical Context of the Protestant Reformation” by Dr. Patrick Hayden-Roy, NWU History Professor

### July 30 “The Role of Luther in the Protestant Reformation” by Dr. Christy Dempsey

## Westminster Bible Class

### GOD’S URGENT CALL—Focusing on Old Testament prophets | 9AM | Parlor

We continue to experience the fact that God calls a diverse and often unlikely if not motley crew into service. God uses people – no matter who they are, what they have done, or how improbable it seems that God would use them. Join us for the whole summer or drop in whenever you are able.

### Unit 2 — CALLING OF PROPHETS

DATE	SCRIPTURE	THEME	LEADER
July 2	Exodus 3	Moses and the Burning Bush	Bill North
July 9	Isaiah 6	Isaiah in the Temple	Bud Tenney
July 16	Jeremiah 1	Jeremiah’s Call and Commission	Ellen Davis
July 23	No Class	No Class	No Class
July 30	Amos 7	Amos’s Call	Ellen Davis



## LIFE GROUPS

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Westminster is a place to worship, a place to serve, and a place to belong. One of our values at Westminster Presbyterian is to build healthy relationships with one another and we believe it is important for everyone to discover a place where they can connect and grow. You are invited to become involved with any of our life groups at any time. For more information on any of our groups call 402-475-6702.

### **Tour de Friends**

**Thursday, July 6 | 5:45 PM**

Meet at the Antelope Park parking lot that is south of South Street. We will ride to Pioneers Park and get ice cream at the C & L Dairy Sweet. Bring water, a bicycle lock and extra money for snacks. Everyone is welcome. This is a casual, conversational paced ride.

### **Westminster First Friday**

**Meet the Artist**

**Photography Show**

**Friday, July 7 | 5-8 PM**

Join us for First Friday as we welcome the Lincoln Camera Club to Westminster.

### **Turning Pages Book Club**

**Mondays— July 10, 17, 24, and 31  
6:30-7:30 PM**

We will be meeting with female inmates at the County Jail. July Book: Divergent by Veronica Roth. Westminster book club members are always needed. Contact the church office for more information.

### **Sausage, Eggs & Scripture**

**Saturday, July 15 | 8 AM**

Piedmont Bistro-  
1265 S Cotner Blvd  
Men's Bible Study led by  
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn.  
Questions: Contact Jimmy— 402-475-6702.

### **Prairie Readers**

**Wednesday, July 19 | 1 PM**

Westminster Parlor  
Book: *To The Bright Edge of the World* by Eowyn Ivey.

### **Ladies Night Out**

**Thursday, July 27 | 5-7 PM**

Join us for Ladies Night Out at the Piedmont Bistro- 1265 S Cotner Blvd. We will be dining on the patio if the weather permits. Feel free to bring a friend, drop-in at your leisure, no RSVP required.



♦  
SPIRITUALLY ALIVE  
BROADLY INCLUSIVE  
GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402.475.6702  
[westminsterlincoln.org](http://westminsterlincoln.org)

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## Westminster Classic Car Show

**Sunday, August 27 — Save the date**

We will be holding a Westminster Classic Car show on Sunday August 27 in the church parking lot. All forms of mechanical transportation are welcome including 4, 3, or 2 wheeled varieties. The Classic Car Show is open to all members of the congregation who wish to display their vehicles.

Bring them to the church at 9 AM, and the show will start at around 9:30 AM. We will have someone watching over them during the 10:30 service. We will drive in a convoy to a nearby eatery for lunch at noon for those who wish to join.

Please call Michael Gregg at 402-326-4415, or Steve Hughes at 402-450-2524 with any questions.



The vehicles can be from any time period.

