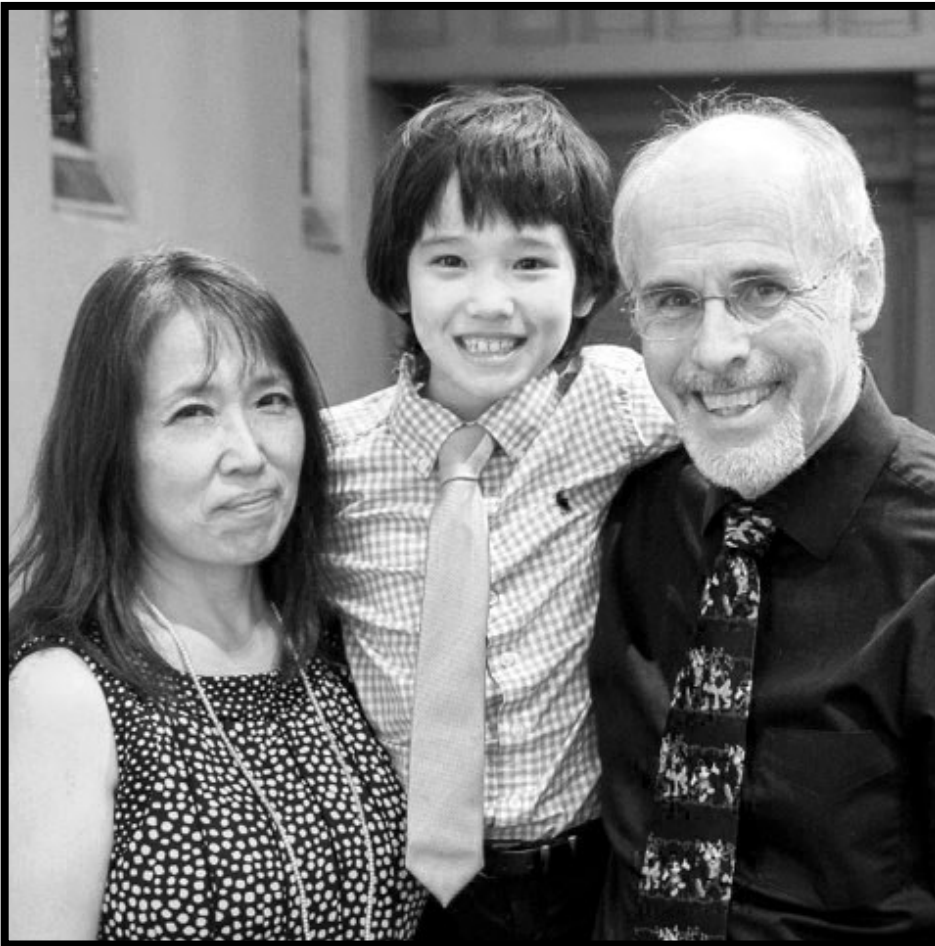


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## Boyd & Masako:

### Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants



Very early in its history, Westminster decided to be “the singing church.” Praising God through music has led to a distinguished line of outstanding musicians. We have been blessed to have Boyd and Masako Bacon for 18 years – the longest serving musicians in Westminster’s history.

When Masako first came to us, she was our interim. As a graduate student, the laws about international students meant we could not pay her for months. So she volunteered out of her good heart! When she received her Ph.D., she came on as a full time staff member. She has distinguished herself as one of only a handful of people in the state to have been honored with the Diplomat status in the American Guild of Organists. Her keyboard skills are phenomenal.

*Boyd & Masako helped us know our faith more deeply through sacred music.*

When it comes to leading the bells, Masako has shown us a depth and range of sounds that are as exciting as they are uniquely beautiful. And when she saw that we had a number of young people with interest in strings, Masako learned to play the violin and began a new youth music group that has delighted the entire congregation.

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Boyd Bacon also came to us as an interim. When it came time for us to choose a permanent Director, there was no doubt in our minds. An ASCAP award winning artist, Boyd has published over 50 pieces of music. He has published commissioned compositions for churches and schools in Nebraska, Kansas and California. He served as president for the Nebraska Choral Directors Association and was the first recipient of the Choral Director of the Year Award. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Teachers College Alumni Association honored him as an outstanding teacher, and Nebraska Wesleyan awarded him the Exemplary Teacher Award, the first part-time teacher to be so named.

Those who have been close to Boyd have often noticed his appreciation for the gifts of others. He has the wisdom to recognize what musicians have to offer, both strengths and limitations. And with his ability to rewrite or compose music, he can fit the music to the musician. Time and again, people have said, “He makes everyone sound good.” This is a gift of grace. He lets other people know their gifts count, and helps them to contribute in significant and meaningful ways.

When Boyd, Masako and I began working together, we sought a shared vision for the music of the congregation. We very quickly agreed. This was a church that was interested in traditional worship, and our goal was to seek a fresh sound within the tradition. It is a joy to experience the music they lead. Above everything else, it needs to be said, Boyd and Masako are faithful. They have consistently approached their music as being offered to the glory of God. With their help, the musicians and congregation have been blessed to experience the music not as a performance, but as an expression of devotion to God.

It has been a joy to know that they met and married here. We have enjoyed seeing them grow in life and love together. And we were delighted when their son Bennett was born. That was 8 years ago – and now he is becoming a gifted musician himself!

Boyd and Masako have distinguished themselves as consummate professionals. They have been friends to the congregation and staff, showing their love and kindness time and again. They have been faithful to God in their work, and shared with us countless blessings.

As we celebrate their last day on staff on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, we wish them all the best. And we hope they hear in our affirmation, the words of the Lord, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

In profound gratitude,

Andrew McDonald  
Senior Pastor



## CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS

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### **Congratulations Westminster Presbyterian 2017 Confirmands!**

Sarah Baillie  
Noa Jurgens  
Shelby Lammers  
Marti Walstad

Alexandra Douglas  
Ellyn King  
Morgan Hagel  
Sanford Wood



### **Taking Action Against the EAB**

Westminster has made the decision to be proactive towards the EAB- Emerald Ash Borer, by planting new trees that will have time to grow and become established before the older Ash trees need to be removed.

The Weesner Endowment Fund purchased seven trees and the Burrage family bought one to give to the church so their son, Derek, could watch it grow big and strong as he grows in his faith. Derek chose a perfect spot just outside of the Preschool yard to plant his tree.

### **ALL IN THE FAMILY**

**Birth:** Congratulation to Sara and Josh Lovell on the birth of Henry Vernon Lloyd, born May 17.

**Marriage:** Best wishes to Jennifer Winje-Diamant and Omar Valentine who were married on May 6.

**Baptism:** Alexandra Rosalyn Douglas on May 21.

### **FOUNDATION BIRTHDAYS**

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

Marybell Avery, Linnea Fredrickson, Michael Gregg, Robert Magee, Jim Nissen, Willie Shafer, Tom Smith and Faye Webert.



## CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

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### SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JUNE 4TH

Children ages 3- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade are welcome to join us for our summer video/ lesson series, *Character Builders*, based on the Fruit of the Spirit. We will walk down 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 (straight thru Faith Village) or at the theatre (all the way down the hall past the gym). Younger children are welcome in the nursery.

### FAITH VILLAGE

We invite adults and youth to sign up for a week or two to help show the video in Summer Sunday School and follow a brief, simple lesson plan. If you haven't volunteered in Faith Village before, this is a great low-key introduction to Faith Village--you will be paired with someone who is experienced!

**FAITH VILLAGE CHILDREN PEACE DOVES:** All of the children worked on memorizing the Bible verses during Faith Village and received a dove as an introduction to God's great generosity. If your child missed Faith Village May 14 and 21, you may pick up their Peace Dove from Barbara on any Sunday morning, or come by the church during office hours. Our thanks to the congregation member who made the Peace Doves to inspire the children to keep Bible verses close to their hearts!

### Thank you and Farewell to Samantha Matulka-Costa

Samantha started as the director of Cherub Choir in 2008 and shifted to the director of Alleluia! Amen! in 2010. She also played trombone in Westminster Brass and sang with the choir, and she also taught music/drama for CAC. We have been blessed with her many of her gifts. Especially as music educator, she has influenced many Westminster children. Her job at Wahoo Newman Junior-Senior high school became more demanding of her time and she decided to graduate this year.

### Swanson Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Thea Kerns, the 2017 recipient of the Swanson Scholarship. The Swanson Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in the Westminster Foundation in 1999, by Libby and Steve Jacobs, daughter and son-in-law of Bill and Mary Swanson. The scholarship provides financial support for the undergraduate \$500 per academic year.



### "Westminster Builds" Day

Saturday, June 17th | 8 AM - 3 PM

You are invited for a day of purpose and fun! Our Life Groups Committee is sponsoring Westminster Church members and friends to work at a Habitat for Humanity site. The location is to be announced. Lunch will be served. No tools necessary. Work a half day, or all day. No skills required. Volunteers must be 16 and older. Those under 18 will need a parent or guardian consent signature.

Call Tracy to sign up at 402-475-6702.



# CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

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We recently celebrated the volunteer teachers and shepherds of Faith Village and Kindergarten of Eden during the 2016-2017 school year. Recruitment for next fall is now underway. Please prayerfully consider what commitment you might make when called upon to serve God and Westminster by helping to fulfill the congregation's baptismal vows to nurture each child's Christian faith as they grow. Our structure is simple and easy—the commitment can be 1 or 2 months during the year-- and the benefits will fill your heart.

## **VBS HERO CENTRAL: Discover Your Strength in God**

All children longing to be superheros are invited to soar at Westminster's VBS Hero Central, June 19 – 23, 9 am - noon! This superhero adventure experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, delicious snacks, great games, and more! Hope to see you there for some SUPER fun, Heroes! "Do good! Seek peace and go after it!" –Psalm 34:14b. (Register online at [www.westminsterlincoln.org](http://www.westminsterlincoln.org).)

## **ADULTS and YOUTH--WHAT IS YOUR SUPERPOWER?**

**Whatever it is, we need YOU at VBS!!** One day or up to 5 days- Some superpowers will be needed ahead of time. Note: *Interest* in any superpower is sure to develop into a true power with God's help!

**Super Strength**—Help load and unload the "set" and set up; and or teardown the set.

**"Transformer"**—have a spacious truck/van to transport set from East Lincoln to Westminster.

**Super Shepherd**—nurture a class from arrival to departure, bonding with the kids and keeping them safe, helping them do tasks, move with them through the morning.

**Super Storyteller**—tell the Bible story and lesson, or organize the storytellers

**Super Crafty Organizer**—Determine crafts (we have lots of ideas/plans!) & collect supplies

**Super Assistant**—provide assistance in an area

**Super Performer**— daily assembly leader, skit participant, puppeteer

**Super Gamer**- lead games at recreation time

**Super Musician**—teach songs and lead music during assemblies

**Super Registrar**—check kids in/out

Super T-Shirt Organizer

**Super Decorator**—help decorate the rooms

**Super Tech**—prep and monitor sound and video for assemblies

**Super Scientist**—prepare and lead the daily science activities

We can help you discover your strength in God.

Join the team—contact Barbara Hipple, [barbara@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:barbara@westminsterlincoln.org), 402-475-6702.

Sign-up is available in the Garden Room.

## **Join Summer Choir**

**Every Sunday in June | 9:30 AM**

All voices, experienced or not, are welcome to join.



# ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS | 9 am

## Forgiveness and Reconciliation

Forgiving someone who has harmed or hurt us is one of the most challenging commandments given to us by Christ. Recognizing how difficult this can be, *can you even imagine forgiving someone who has killed a member of your family?* Join us in June as we explore the spiritual practice of forgiveness and the power of reconciliation. Dr. Adam Luedtke will lead our discussion on June 4 and 11 drawing upon profound biblical examples, contemporary research, and leading experts in the fields of theology and psychology.

On June 18 Dr. Gerise Herndon, NWU professor, will present on the reconciliation in Rwanda. Following one of the most horrific genocides in modern history, the nation of Rwanda is working to heal its wounds through the process of reconciliation. Come and learn more from Dr. Herndon who has studied this process extensively on-site in Rwanda.

June 4 – “The Spiritual Practice of Forgiveness” – by Dr. Adam Luedtke

June 11 – “The Power of Reconciliation” – by Dr. Adam Luedtke

June 18 – “Reconciliation in Rwanda” – by Dr. Gerise Herndon

June 25 – Presbyterians in the Park – No Adult Ed

## Westminster Bible Class

GOD’S URGENT CALL—Parlor

Pentecost begins our summer lesson series for Westminster Bible Class. It is fitting that we begin our study of God’s call on Pentecost, for isn’t that what Pentecost is all about? The coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of all demands a response by the faithful Christian. This series of lessons of God’s urgent call reminds us that as God called persons in the past, we know God continues to call people today – even us! Join us for the whole summer or drop in whenever you are able.

### Unit 1 (June) Called to Be Strong

DATE	SCRIPTURE	THEME	LEADER
<a href="#">June 4</a>	Judges 4-5	<a href="#">Deborah and Barak</a>	Bud Tenny
June 11	Judges 6-8	Gideon’s Call	Ellen Davis
June 18	Judges 13-18	Samson’s Call	Ellen Davis
June 25	NO CLASS	OUTDOOR WORSHIP	OUTDOOR WORSHIP





## 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. Most people who have been a part of a Life Group say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that they develop. You are invited to become involved with any of our life groups at any time. And if you have an interest in forming a life group that you would like to be involved in— let us know. For more information on any of our groups call 402-475-6702.

### **Masako's & Boyd's Farewell Reception**

**June 11, following worship**

Please join us as we thank Masako & Boyd for their years of service and wish them farewell.

### **Turning Pages Book Club**

We will be meeting in July with female inmates at the County Jail from 6:30-7:30 pm on Mondays— July 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Book: Divergent by Veronica Roth. More Westminster book club members are always needed. Contact the church office for more information.

### **Westminster Club**

Westminster Club met for the last time May 23 after nearly 40 years of fellowship and ministry. The final program was provided by Boyd, Masako and Bennett Bacon.

Westminster Club was born in the early 1980's out of the earlier Presbyterian Mariners movement. The club has served as a social and service opportunity for older adults 55 and older at Westminster. The life of individuals and families have changed in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Mission, ministry and fellowship are found in other ways today, and while we may be saddened that the 'old' has gone, the 'new' provides growth and opportunity in new directions. Our thanks to that 'great cloud of witnesses' who nurtured and encouraged one another throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century as Westminster grew and changed with the ever-changing times. May God bless them and all who follow with energy and enthusiasm for sharing the Good News through faith and fellowship, nurture and mission.

### **Prairie Readers**

Wednesday, June 21 | 1:00 pm

Westminster Lounge

Book: *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway

Facilitator: Martha Van Sickle

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

Saturday, June 17 | No Bible Study

Rev. Shelbourn is dismissing the June "Sausage, Egg and Scripture" so the men who have been attending can help at Habitat instead of going to the regular breakfast and Bible Study.

### **Ladies Night Out**

Mon, June 19 | 5-7 pm

Join us for Ladies Night Out. Billy's, 1301 H St. Join us for appetizers and a cocktail, \$10 plus drink cost, tax and tip. Bring a friend, drop-in at your leisure, no RSVP required.

### **Cancer Support Group**

The diagnosis of cancer is often, perhaps usually, a traumatic emotional experience. Suddenly the person is transported to an uncomfortable, anxious mental state of concern about "what will happen to me, my loved ones, my job, and many other things."

Fortunately, at Westminster, there exists a small, informal group that allows each person to listen and share those concerns with other Cancer survivors and feel uplifted to a new, purposeful life. This support group meets monthly ( 3rd Tuesday, 7PM in the parlor). If this helps fill a need for you, please join us. Call Janice Rohwedder for further information 402-730-5568.



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GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.  
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402.475.6702  
westminsterlincoln.org

## PRESBYTERIANS IN THE PARK

Sunday, June 25 – 10:30 am  
Band Shell – Antelope Park

Bring blankets, lawn chairs and gather for worship in the park. After worship you are invited to a potluck lunch at the Auld Recreation Center. Member Care will provide fried chicken and drinks. A free will offering will be taken. What should you bring?

Glad you asked. Last names beginning with A-M bring a side dish; N-Z bring a

dessert. Please bring a serving spoon for your dish to serve 10-12 people. Consider bringing allergen-free items (no nuts, dairy, gluten, etc.) and label your dish please. There will be no Sunday School classes. 8:00 am worship will be in the Chapel per usual.



## A LOHMEN VISIT IN JULY

Westminster has a unique relationship with a partner church in Germany, which began in the 1980's, and we can proudly say that our church members were present in East Germany and participated in silent vigils which were instrumental in the Berlin wall falling. Westminterites literally went through checkpoints to visit Lohmen and the checkpoints were gone upon departure.

Since that historic trip in 1989, there have been dozens of visits back and forth between groups and families. The next visit will be in July when 10 from Lohmen will come to bring greetings, share faith, partner in mission, explore America, and worship, laugh, pray, sing, dance, and EAT together.



