

Lent: 40 Days of

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness, overcoming the temptations of the devil. Jesus was able to persevere because he grew strong in his relationship to God. His faith made his life take on clear focus. After the 40 days, his life changed and his true ministry began.

The Life Group Ministry invites you to focus on your faith this 40 days of Lent by joining a short-term small group. Using a reflection piece on the spiritual disciplines, each group will meet 6 weeks, usually one hour per week. It is an opportunity to grow in faith and friendship.

As Victor Hugo says in *Les Miserable's*, "The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved". God created us for community. In the first chapters of the Bible, it says that God breathed life into us, meaning that our very breath is given to us by someone else. And God says, it is not good for a human being to be alone (Genesis 2:18).

God intends people to be in relationships with others. The New Testament uses the Greek word *koinonia* 19 times to talk about church life. The *koinonia* experience is one of community, friendship, fellowship, sharing, partnership and teamwork. The spiritual presence of Jesus powerfully connected people together in the early church, and he can do so for us today.

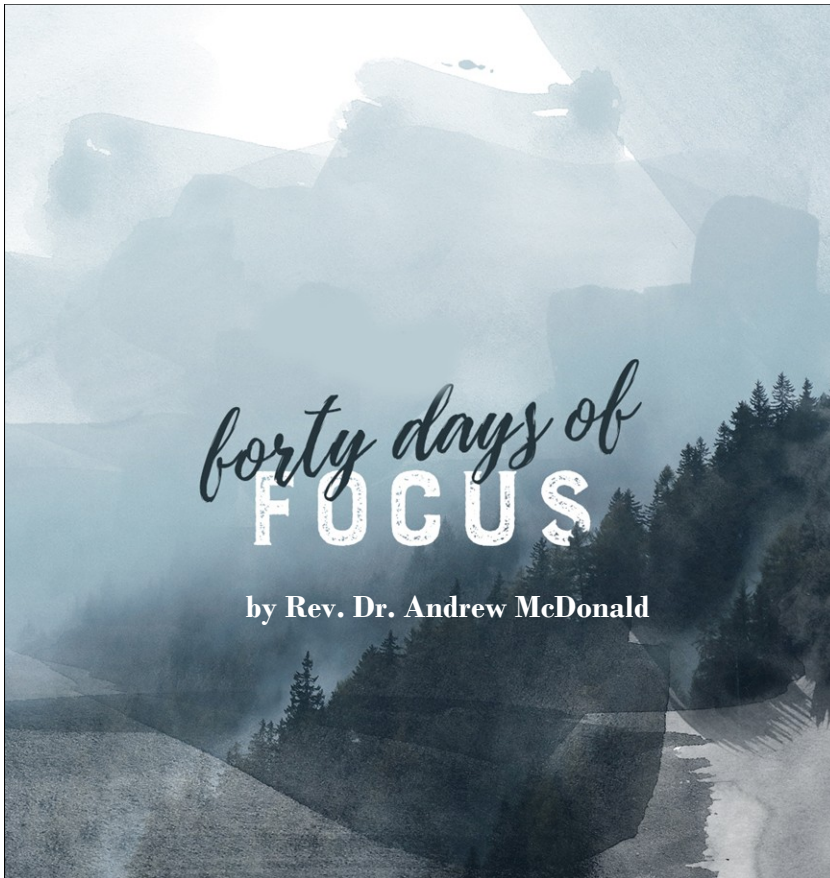
You are invited to join one of these groups, to focus on your faith and to grow in deeper friendship through our Westminster community. These "40 Days of Focus" groups begin during the first week of Lent. If you hear the Spirit moving you to join, please, sign up in the Garden Room. Or simply call the church office for more information.

I hope you take this wonderful opportunity to grow together in faith, hope and love. I want to give a special "Thank you" to the group leaders: Geoff Cline, Sarah Gergen, Bruce Sheffield, Tom Pappas, Scott Nelson, Rob Otte, Kevin Bryson, Mike and Peggy Rasmussen.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor



CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS



Forty Days of Focus

Come meet new people, make new friends, and celebrate Lent with a six week study designed to deepen one's faith and spirituality.

We have several groups forming with different days, times and places to meet during March & April and we can also create additional groups. This is an excellent opportunity to strengthen your friendships within our church family as well as your relationship with God.

Sign up in the Garden Room on Sundays, or call our Communication Coordinator, Tracy at 402-475-6702 to get the dates, times and the venues available.



New Members Class

Welcome to the following new members who joined Westminster on January 29th:

Sue Bartlett

Brittane Schrader

Kent, Jaime & Avery Hemmerling and family

Ryan and Emily Shelstad and family



CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS

Westminster Presbyterian Church Family Directory

Be part of our Church Family Directory– It won't be the same without YOU!

Free 8x10 & directory per family photographed. Portrait purchases available at a 20% winter discount. Bring in a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry and receive \$5.00 off of your portrait purchases.

Family Portrait Dates:

There are three ways to get registered for your appointment:

Appointments can be made on-line at: www.westminsterlincoln.org

In Person Church Sign Up Dates: March 5th & 12th

Or Call Tracy Murray, M-F at 402-475-6702

Foundation Birthdays February 2017

Mike Dempsey, Mary Beth Johnson, Gary Moulton, Regi Schirmer, George Peterson, Charlie Gallentine, & Rita Kinkennon. Thank you for your support of the Westminster Foundation.

Swanson Scholarship

Full-time undergraduate students and high school seniors are encouraged to apply for Westminster's Swanson Scholarship. Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient per academic school year. Applications are available on the church website or picked up in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study; however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. **Deadline is March 31, 2017.**



Deacon Retreat

Deacon retreat was held on February 11th and Great things are happening with the deacons this year. Get ready for the Easter breakfast on April 16.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Kindergarten of Eden

On Sunday's at 10:45 am. March brings new lessons for our Preschool children— lessons about forgiveness, leading by serving others, assurance that Jesus hears our cries for help, and practicing ways to love God with all they have. Let your children explore God's love in their lives as they Grow in Grace and Gratitude. **DON'T FORGET** to check out www.growinggracegratitude.org to download the same weekly Bible Stories that your child hears in class, plus activities to do at home-for free, for iBooks and Kindle.

Faith Village

On Sunday's at 9:00 and 10:45 am. Children will learn about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and about the events of Holy Week in Storytelling, Art, Music & Worship and Games Workshops. "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" –Matthew 21:9b

FAITH VILLIAGE NEW OFFERING PROJECT: Faith Village children chose a new offering project. By mid-February, we have received \$37.22! Gifts of chickens can provide a family with an ongoing source of food and nourishment as a high-producing chicken can lay one egg almost every day. Kitchen Kits provide families who have lost everything in a disaster with the basic tools needed to cook a meal. Our children are learning to give generously as a sign of gratitude, and by joining their gifts together, they are witnessing to God's gracious and abundant work in the world.



Bible Memory Verse Award

Faith Villagers who memorize the Bible Memory Verses for February, March, April and May will receive a beautiful stained glass Peace Dove. The doves were hand-made and graciously donated by a congregation member for the children.

Adopt an Egg Program

Eggs will be available for "Adoption" at the East Entrance beginning on March 12th. Feel free to grab a bag or two of empty eggs and fill them up with goodies for the Easter Eggstravaganza Hunt. Please return your filled eggs by April 9th. Thank you for your help with making this children's event exciting!

Easter Eggstravaganza

April 15th from 10am-11:30 am.

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.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

DRAMA CAMP GULLIVER'S TRAVELS



Westminster Presbyterian Church's 6th annual Drama Camp featuring Missoula Children's Theatre's production of GULLIVER'S TRAVELS begins Monday, March 13 and

culminates in a performance on Saturday, March 18. Pre-Registration for Drama Camp is required, as it begins with an audition. Students, ages Kindergarten through 6th grade, are encouraged to attend. No advance preparation is necessary. Assistant Directors will also be cast to aid in rehearsals throughout the week and to take on essential backstage responsibilities.

The Missoula Children's Theatre touring productions are complete with costumes, scenery, props and makeup. MCT Tour Actor/Directors will conduct rehearsals throughout the week from 9 am – 3 pm each day, with other activities provided for the children when not in rehearsal.

MCT is the nation's largest touring children's theater group. Children will enjoy education in theatre topics such as: characterization, music, staging, and movement.

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS will be presented on Saturday, March 18 at Westminster. For more information, call Barbara Hipple, 402-475-6702.

Visit www.westminsterlincoln.org to pre-register. Youth 7th-12th Grade and Young Adult Helpers NEEDED!! Email Barbra@westminsterlincoln.org.

VBS HERO CENTRAL: Discover Your Strength in

All children longing to be superhero's are invited to soar at Westminster's VBS Hero Central, **June 19 – 23!**

This superhero adventure experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, hands-on mission hero work, 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. Registration opens this month at www.westminsterlincoln.org.

Adult and youth heroes are invited to train the young superheroes in use of their powers. Hero Central has a need for YOUR super power,

whatever it may be. We can help you discover your strength in God, too! Team building begins now—by indicating your desire to participate in this church-wide ministry. Contact: Barbara 402-475-6702, or barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.





ADULT EDUCATION

Westminster Bible Class

Westminster Bible Class is an open class, drop in as you wish or stay for the whole year. The Westminster Bible Class study this Spring will consider the love of God, central to our Christian faith and experience. Join others who find support in Bible study to be enriched in our understanding of God's love and to experience a deeper gratitude for the lives we live loved by God, through faith in Jesus Christ, by the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit. Throughout the Lenten and Easter season, we will be reminded of God's love focused in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and that love indwelling and leading the church as well as our own lives by the work of the Holy Spirit. Please join the group meeting in the parlor at 9 am each Sunday.

Unit 1 (March) God's Eternal, Preserving, Renewing Love

DATE	SCRIPTURE	THEME	LEADER
March 5th, Lent 1	1 John 4:7-19	The Source of All Love	Ellen Davis
March 12th, Lent 2	Ephesians 2:1-10	God's Overflowing Love	Ellen Davis
March 19th, Lent 3	John 15:1-17	God's Love Manifested	Gary Haller
March 26th, Lent 4	Joel 2	God's Love Restores	TBA

Lean In to God this Lent—May we hear the Good News Anew!

The Adult Education Ministry would like to invite all members of Westminster to "lean in" to God this Lent. Join us on Sunday mornings during Lent to grow your faith and strengthen your relationship with God as we explore the "Book of Glory". The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which the Christian Church was built. The Gospel of John relays this story. The first half of the Gospel of John is known as the "Book of Signs" and describes the miracles of Christ. The second half is known as the "Book of Glory". To the Gospel writer, "Glory" meant the passion, crucifixion, and vindication of God's purpose in Christ through resurrection. Early Christians were known to recite the "Book of Glory" as they stood outside the tomb of Christ, proclaiming the good news for all to hear. Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn will guide us as we seek to draw closer to God.

WOW WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAYS

*****There will NOT be any WOW Activities- dinner, classes or music rehearsals scheduled on March 15th.**

*****Dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:20 pm beginning on March 8th in Cole Hall. \$4/children, \$6/adults, with a \$17 maximum per family.**

WOWXL Youth Café 6:30 pm

Youth in grades 6-8 meet weekly during the school year for engaging activities and to grow in faith together.

Music Rehearsals

6:20 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

WOW Dinner Menu's

March 8— Corned Beef & Cabbage
 March 15th— No WOW
 March 22nd – Taco Bar



LIFE GROUPS

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Circles are the small groups based on study, friendship, and action. All Westminster women are invited to visit any of the following circles:

Circle 3

Wed, March 1st at 10:00 am
Carolyn McCall 402-525-0473
2720 Van Dorn Street

Circle 4

Mon, March 6th at 7:00 pm
Please note change of meeting place for this month:
Carolyn Harp 402-261-6897
2905 South 41st Street

Circle 5

Tue, March 14th at 10:00 am
Westminster Lounge
Pat Hackley 402-423-2909

Circle 6

Tue, March 28th at 7:00 pm
Jane Hines 402-488-8302

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tues, March 7th at 11:30 am at the Hickory Road BBQ & Catering Co 5571 South 48th Street. Come for fellowship and good food. All are welcome. Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883 with any questions.

History Buffs

"High School Hall of Fame" with Mike Rasmussen on Sat, March 11th at 9:00am
Meet at the NSAA building north of the Haymarket baseball field to tour the High School Hall of Fame with Mike Rasmussen. Mike has developed this fascinating tribute to the amazing athletes of the past century. It is truly an outstanding display and all will be entertained and overwhelmed. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Prairie Readers

Join us Wednesday, March 15th at 1:00 pm in the Westminster Parlor. All are welcome!
This month members are each selecting any book from the list of 150 Nebraska books in celebration of Sequacentineal anniversary of Nebraska's Statehood. You can find the list here:
www.Nebraska150Books.org:
Facilitator: Susie Hughes

Sausage, Eggs & Scripture

Sat, March 18th at 8:00 am
Piedmont Bristo
1265 S Cotner Blvd
Men's Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Shelbourn.
Questions: contact Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

Turning Pages

Westminster members meet with inmates at the County Jail on Monday nights for a 4 week time period once every 3 months for Book Club. The next session begins on March 6th. The group will be reading *Orphan Train* by *Christina Baker Kline*. You do not need to attend every week. A brief 1 hour training session with jail programming staff and background check is required before volunteering in the facility at SW 40th & O Streets. *"I was in prison and you came to me."* (Matthew 25:36). For more information contact Deb Schorr at 402-421-1102.

Ladies Night Out

Mon, March 20th from 5-7pm
Mazatlán II – 2701 King Lane
Invite your friends for a fun evening of getting to know Westminster Presbyterian Church ladies over appetizers and drinks. All ladies are welcome! No RSVP required- drop-in at your leisure and invite a friend. Contact Robyn at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Westminster Club

Westminster Club will be resuming for the Spring on Tuesday March 21st at 11:30 in Cole Hall at the Church. We hope you will put this on your calendar and plan to be with us. Watch the Vine for more information.



SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.
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Palm Sunday: April 9

Maundy Thursday: April 13

7:00 pm— Sanctuary

Good Friday: April 14

Noon—Chapel

7:00 pm— Sanctuary

Easter Sunday: April 16

7:00 am Chapel

9:00 am Sanctuary

10:00 am Chapel

11:00 am Sanctuary

Tour de Friends Trail Ride

Come grow with us in strength and friendship with Westminster's newest Life Group— Tour de Friends Trail Ride Thursday! We will meet on Thursday's for a bike ride on the beautiful trails of Lincoln. Our first Thursday Ride of the year will begin on March 23rd. We will meet at the Children's Zoo's front entrance at 5:30 pm and ride approximately 8-10 miles round trip. Bring your bike, some water and perhaps a little cash in case you would like to get a snack. Helmets are required.

The goal of this small group is to encourage people that may be intimidated by organized bike riding groups and/or haven't ridden for a long time. Rides will be leisurely and no one will be dropped.



