



THE MESSENGER

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OCTOBER 2017

“You Can’t Walk on Water Unless You Get Out of the Boat!”

During the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went out to the disciples, walking on the sea. When they saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately spoke up: “Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.” “Lord, if it is You,” Peter replied, “command me to come to You on the water.” “Come,” said Jesus. Then Peter got down out of the boat, and walked on the water... Matthew 14: 25–29

Countless sermons have been titled, “You Can’t Walk on Water Unless You Get Out of the Boat!” Point well taken. You have to take initiative to follow Jesus – including courageous actions. Therefore, when Jesus calls, step out onto the water. Discover when you follow him, you can do things you thought were impossible. The world needs people like Peter who have the audacity to believe Jesus can make them walk on water.

But Peter never would have walked on the water if he had not been in the boat. The point of the story is that God comes in power to the church when we are together in the boat. When the church is doing the ordinary things Jesus expects us to do, suddenly the extraordinary becomes possible. The impossible becomes possible. Miracles can happen through the church.

The word miracle comes from a root word that means “to smile, to laugh.” I think of the smiles that beam forth when the church comes together and builds a new home for someone through Habitat for Humanity. I think of the laughter that comes on Christmas when the miracle of giving shows itself through the Saint Nick project. And when some group from Westminster goes down to serve dinner at Matt Talbot or the Gathering Place, how deep inside, people are fed not just with food, but with the knowledge that there are people who care about them. That joy is miraculous.

October is Mission month at Westminster. You are invited to get in the boat with other disciples, and do at least one mission project this month. You will find multiple opportunities listed inside this issue of the Messenger. I hope at least one of them inspires you to hear Jesus calling you to get in the boat. Service to other people is the core of who we are as Christians.

There are many water walkers in this church. You may be the next. In the midst of doing these loving actions together, Jesus may come to us, and inspire us to do something so marvelous, it seems to have come from God. That’s what a miracle is. We will probably recognize it by the joy and the laughter.

~Andrew McDonald
Senior Pastor



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

MISSION MONTH

WAYS YOU CAN HELP WITH MISSION & OUTREACH IN OCTOBER AND BEYOND

- ⇒ **October 6** Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach (prepare & serve dinner)
- ⇒ **October 13** Gathering Place (serve dinner 4:45 to 6:30)
- ⇒ **October 8** Safe quarters for Friendship Home (door to door requests for donation)
- ⇒ **October 21** Neighbor Helping Neighbor (visiting different nonprofits to help with projects)
- ⇒ **October 28** Habitat for Humanity Faith Build (drywall work and serve lunch for 30)

Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

Saturday, October 28 | 8 – 3:30 PM

You are Invited for a Day of Purpose and Fun. Mission and Outreach Committee is sponsoring Westminster Church members and friends to help at a Habitat for Humanity build. Volunteers are needed to help with the build and/or to provide food for the lunch. No skills are required for the work and all tools will be provided. Volunteers must be 16 and older and will need to fill out volunteer paperwork and watch a short training video. Those under 18 will need a parent/guardian consent signature. This is our opportunity to help provide a Lincoln family with a home.

Westminster Food Pantry

For 26 years, Westminster has been feeding the hungry in Lincoln. We provide food for six families every week. Consider becoming an asset to our community by donating to the local food pantry. You can pick up a list of needed items at the Food Pantry Box near the East entrance. We are currently in need of cereal, pork & beans, chili, rice, cooking oil and canned fruit. Hunger and food insecurity has no color, race or religion, just an empty stomach looking for relief.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Saturday, October 21

Meet at the church at 8 AM for coffee & fellowship

Each work team will depart at 8:30 AM to their worksite and work until 11 AM or noon depending on the project. There will also be an opportunity to support the Friendship Home on Sunday, Oct 8 in the afternoon.

For more info on the projects and to sign up, call or email Jennifer Smith at
jsmith67@neb.rr.com
or 402-525-6560.



Neighbors **Helping** Neighbors

"Whatever you do to the least one of these, I tell you in truth that you do unto me." Matthew 25:31



CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS

Join Us for A Choral Masterwork | Sunday, December 17th

Westminster Choir will perform Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata during worship this Advent. Scored for a double brass choir and chorus, this majestic work requires the full strength of all of Westminster's interested singers to come together to express the meaning of this Latin text. We welcome new singers as well as those who could join us for our special event. **Rehearsals will take place on Wednesday evenings beginning in October at 7:30pm.** Please do not let occasional conflicts deter you from participating. Contact Laura Ross at laura@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-475-6702 for more information.

Elders for the Earth | Sunday, October 1st through Wednesday, October 4th

A multi-day gathering at Mahoney State Park for folks who want to learn more and DO SOMETHING about a changing climate. Come for a day... or two... or the whole event. Speakers include Senator Tony Vargas, Rev. Kim Morrow, Senator Patty Pansing Brooks, Jane Kleeb. Take your pick of workshops and playshops, indoors and out, packed with information and creative experiences. Register at www.elders4theearth.com or see Laurel or Tom Pappas for more information.

The Green @ Heart Creation Challenge for October:

*** Use only cloth bags to carry purchases.***

If you have extra cloth bags, bring them to the Garden Room to share. If you need some, pick up a few—same place.

Can you pass this quiz? Watch for answers in this month's Vine.

- 1) What are plastic bags made of?
- 2) How many plastic bags are placed into circulation each year?
- 3) What percentage of plastic bags are recycled?
- 4) What percentage of RECYCLED plastic bags end up recycled?
- 5) Where do the rest of the bags end up?



FOUNDATION BIRTHDAYS

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

Fern Bieck, Jeanne Cuda, Joyce Douglas, Todd Gumm, Glenna Haller, Jane Hines, John Hoppe, Jr., Al Landfield, Marilyn Maude, Julie Olson,, Bob Peterson, Sally Peterson, Lou Roper, Sandy Sostad, Deb Schorr, Mark Schorr, Tom Winter, Jason Woita and Megan Woita.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Births: Congratulations to Kelly Braswell and Kay Burbach on the birth of Turner James, born August 11; Kassandra and Phillip Knudson on the birth of Beau Griffin, born August 26; and Jessica and Mike Yesilciman on the birth of Maxwell Kirkor and Parker Margaret, born August 28.

Baptism: Raylee Joyce, daughter of Joselyn and Adam Luedtke on September 24.

Bereavement: Comfort for the family and friends of Carol Campbell, who died on September 13.



CHILDREN & YOUTH & MUSIC

PEDALS, PIPES & PIZZA

Friday, October 20 | 5:30-7:30 PM

To introduce children to the
“King of Instruments”

....The Pipe Organ

All children interested in music are invited to meet the “King of Instruments”. Dress up in your Halloween costume for a free pizza party and listen to the amazing, weird and spooky sounds of Westminster’s beautiful Casavant organ. Piano students and children with musical interest are encouraged to bring their favorite

piece to play on Lincoln’s second largest pipe organ. To register for Pedals, Pipes and Pizza or for more information about any of our music ensembles, contact John Ross at 402-475-6702 or john@westminsterlincoln.org.



Youth String Ensemble

String students are invited to join our Youth String Ensemble. We rehearse on Sundays 10:00-10:20 am in the Chapel. This group will perform a variety of musical styles several times this Fall.

Do you play a brass instrument?

If so, we would love to have you join us!

Westminster Brass wants you! Rehearsals TBA.

Contact John Ross at 402-475-6702 or

john@westminsterlincoln.org for more information.

Rising into the Chapel

The Rising, our contemporary worship, has been experimenting with moving into the Chapel. Some positive feedback has been that the acoustics are much better and the worship atmosphere is wonderful. On a practical level, there is less set up time, and it frees up space in Fellowship Hall. The Rising will continue in the Chapel for the month of October. This is an evolving experiment, so if you have ideas for improvement for this or for any of our worship experiences, please pass your thoughts on to the Worship Committee, John and Laura Ross or the pastors.

The Rising Band Members

In Finals of the Nebraska Blues Festival

The Nebraska Blues Festival narrows the best Blues bands across the state to four, then has a contest to vote for the number one. The Rising Band has 3 out of 4 members in their other band, named **Normal Blvd.** They will be playing on October 8th at the Chrome Lounge in Omaha around 7 PM.

You’re invited to come support the band
as the crowd size helps generate energy!

WOW — Westminster on Wednesdays

Every week, we serve a home-cooked meal
followed by adult education, WOWXL, and music!

* NEW * Parenting Life Group: Wednesdays | Parlor | 6:30 PM

Parenting. Fellowship. Support. Prayer. Growing your child's faith. And fun! Adults share and discuss while children are nurtured in supervised care. parents of infants and young children through age 5. Bring the family for WOW dinner and Preschool- grade 5 children are welcome to sing with the choir. If interested, contact: Barbara@westminsterlincoln.org or call 402-475-6702.

WOWXL—6:30 PM | Youth Café

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

MUSIC REHEARSALS

6:20 pm Westminster Carillon | Sanctuary
6:30 pm Alleluia! Amen! Grades K-5 | Room 210
6:30 pm Cherub Choir Pre-K | Room 210 — East
7:30 pm Westminster Choir | Sanctuary

WOW DINNER MENU'S

Served in Cole Hall

5:45-6:30 PM

\$4/Children, \$6/Adults, \$17 Max/Family
All dinners include salad, fruit & dessert

OCT 4 pulled pork sandwiches with potato and fruit

OCT 11 hamburger gravy on a biscuit with fruit and dessert

OCT 18 Grilled cheese with potato leek soup

OCT 25 Tacos and all the fixings

WOW ADULT EDUCATION

Join us at WOW in OCTOBER

for a Potpourri of Topics

October 4— PCUSA International Peacemaker

October 11— Back Pew Farmer — Campbell's Nursery

October 18— Back Pew Farmer — Food Forest

October 25— Lohmen Game on Church Building

Roca Scary Farm Youth Trip

Sunday, Oct. 15 | 6-12 Grade

Meet at Roca Berry farm (16531 South 38th St., Roca, NE) at 5 PM and pick up at 8:30 PM

Join in for a plethora of scary stuff, bonfire with s'mores, hotdogs, and more. Cost: \$30 per youth - sign up via constant contact. Contact Devon or Andrew for questions.



SUNDAY ADULT ED & BIBLE CLASS

Sunday Adult Education

Across the Abrahamic Faith Traditions— Sundays at 9 am-10 am | Meet in the Lounge

This year Lincoln's Abrahamic Faith Dinner will be held on October 26th at the College View Seventh Day Adventist Church. Westminster has hosted this interfaith event on many occasions in the past.

To deepen our understanding of other world religions, Adult Education will sponsor a lecture series focused on the Abrahamic Faith Traditions of Judaism, Islam, and Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

Our speakers will discuss the basic beliefs and practices of their faiths and address common misconceptions. The primary purpose of this series will be to build bridges of understanding.

October 1— Sunni Islam

October 8— Shi'a Islam

October 15— Eastern Orthodox Christianity

October 22— Judaism

October 29— Interfaith Discussion



Westminster Bible Class

Called into Covenant with God —Join us any Sunday in October| 9AM | Parlor

Our Fall lesson series theme leads us from God's Call, our summer study, into God's Covenant with us.

In October, we will explore God's covenant with Abram, the giving of God's law to the people of Israel, the promise given to David and his posterity, and the corresponding continuing call to loyalty to God. As always, you are invited to drop in anytime.

Unit 2 Signs of God's Covenant

Coffee and donut holes are waiting along with a friendly, spirit-filled group of Westminster friends.

October 1: Genesis 15, "God's Covenant with Abram", led by Steve Carveth

October 8: Exodus 19; Isaiah 60:3, "God's Covenant with Israel", led by Ellen Davis

October 15: Exodus 20, "Obeying God's Law" led by Steve Carveth

October 22: 2 Samuel 7:1-16; Psalm 89; 1Chronicles 22:6-8, "God's Covenant with David" led by Bud Tenney

October 29: Nehemiah 9-10, "God's Covenant with the Returned Exiles" led by Ellen Davis



Presbyterian Women of Westminster Circles

Presbyterian Women of Westminster Circles engage in monthly Bible study, mission, prayer and nurturing of one another. **Circle 4:** October 2 at 7 PM. Hostess: Martha Dennis, Leader: Kathy Anderson.

Circle 3: October 4 at 10 AM. Hostess: Barbara Schliesser, Leader: Linda Miller. **Circle 5:** October 10 at 10 AM in the Lounge. Leader: Pat Hackley. **Circle 6:** October 24 at 7 PM in the Library. Leader: Jane Hines.

Lunch Bunch— Tuesday, October 3 | 11:30 AM

We are meeting at The Eatery at 2548 S 48th Street 84th. Come for fellowship & good food. All are welcome.

Ladies Night Out— Tuesday, October 16 | 5-7 PM | Billy's 1301 "H" Street

Invite your friends for an evening of getting to know Westminster Presbyterian Church ladies over food and drinks. Appetizers \$10 + tax. All ladies are welcome to join. No RSVP required & you can drop in at your leisure.

Prairie Readers— Wednesday, October 18 | 1 PM | Westminster Parlor

Pat Leach will be our guest speaker, discussing 2017 Notable Books. All are welcome.

World on a Plate — SAVE THE DATE! Friday, October 20 | 6:30 PM

If you enjoy cooking, fellowship over a good meal, and learning about current missionary work, World on a Plate is for you! Members explore international cuisine and PCUSA missions monthly at Westminster or in members' home. More to come about this month's meeting, watch for it in the Vine.

Sausage, Eggs & Scripture— Sat, October 21 | 8 AM | Piedmont Bistro- 1265 S Cotner Blvd

Men's Bible Study led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn. Since "History Buffs" moved to the 3rd Saturday for this month to accommodate the speaker, we will dismiss a few minutes early so participants can attend both. More information? Call Questions: Contact Jimmy— 402-475-6702.

History Buffs — Saturday, October 21 | Lounge | 9 AM

We are pleased to have Judi Gaiashkibos, the Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, as our guest speaker. She will speak on the history of the Poncas and on the plans for the restoration of the Susan La Flesche-Picotte Center in Walthill, Ne. Judi is a native American of the Ponca Tribe and is prominent in the Chief Standing Bear activities in the State and with the dedication of his statue on Centennial Mall on October 15, 2017. Contact: Bruce & Margaret Sheffield.

Turning Pages Book Club | Monday nights in November | 6:30 pm

Book: "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak. A powerful story of mortality, the written word, and love, told with the backdrop of World War II Germany. We will be meeting with the female inmates at the County Jail. More Westminster members are always needed. A background check and a short training session at the County Jail is required before volunteering. Contact Deb Schorr at debschorr@aol.com. For more information.



2110 Sheridan Blvd.
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402.475.6702
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spooktacular

Sunday, October 29 from 3-5 PM



Trunk-or-Treat! Play games! Tour the Lincoln City Libraries Bookmobile, a fire truck, and a police cruiser! Treats Galore!

Last year was a HUGE success and we plan to, once more, make this another one of Westminster's largest community events. There are a couple of different ways you can help out:

- 1) Please consider donation bags of candy, packaged snacks, pencils, and/or any small handouts for the children. Look for collection buckets at the top of the steps by the East entrance. We plan to pass out candy to 400-500 children.

AND/OR

- 2) Wear a costume and decorate your car trunk with a fun theme and pass out treats to the children. Vehicles need to arrive by 2 pm to find a spot and put the finishing touches on your decorations. Contact Stacy Graham at 402-416-1158 with any questions. Sign up in the Garden Room or call the church at 402-475-6702.
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