



THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 87, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2017

It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year

December 10th - Children's Christmas Pageant

"This is the stable, dusty and brown, in a quiet corner of Bethlehem town."

This year's Christmas pageant will be anything but dusty and brown. The Alleluia! Amen! and Cherub Choirs bring to life the beautiful children's story, "This Is the Stable" with a new set, audio/visual effects, and student-created arrangements of traditional Christmas carols.



December 17th - Westminster Choir Cantata

4 trumpets. 2 French horns. 1 trombone, 1 baritone, 1 tuba. 35 Singers.

Feel the exhilaration and the sublime in Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata. The Westminster Choir and Brass, with special guests the Goodhue Brass Ensemble, sing out the Christmas story through the surprising harmonies and driving Renaissance dance-inspired rhythms of one of the 20th Century's choral masterworks.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

December 24th— No 8 am or 9:20 am worship this Sunday

10:30 AM— Advent IV

"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie."

In the winter stillness, we anxiously await the birth of Love incarnate.

3:00 PM

Carol, candles and the Good News with The Good Life Chorus, a new professional men's a *capella* chorus who have made Westminster their home.

5:00 PM

Join with children's voices, Youth Strings and the Nebraska Brass to welcome the Christ child.

7:00 PM

Celebrate a rockin' Christmas Eve with the Rising band.

9:00 PM

Proclaim the Good News of Jesus' birth with the Westminster Choir, Carillon, and the Nebraska Brass.





CHRISTMAS EVENTS

“C” is for Christmas

Sunday, December 3, 5-6:30 pm

Get into the true spirit of Christmas!

Prepare your hearts at “C” is for Christmas. Experience the variety of chili, cookies and carols, at our annual Chili Cook-Off!



“A Night in Bethlehem” returns and Faith Village will transform into Bethlehem for one night only! Visit the city during the year Jesus was born. Wander through the bustling marketplace and discover what life was like in His time.

Create unique crafts as you interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story. Talk with Mary and Joseph in The Stable. Hear about the miracle of Jesus’ birth. Join in singing Christmas carols in the Psalmist’s Tent and much more.

Sign up now, to share your special chili and compete for the coveted Silver Ladle Award. Contact the church for more info, or Barbara if you would like to volunteer to bring the Christmas Story to life! 402-475-6702; barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM





CHRISTMAS & UPCOMING EVENTS

The Rising Band invites you to Carols & Cold Ones

Cottonwood Café, 440 S. 11th St | Sun, December 17th | 7 – 9 pm

Please join the Rising Band of Westminster Presbyterian Church at Cottonwood Cafe for a Christmas Sing-a-long with your favorite beverage! We will sing as many holiday favorites as we can, while enjoying fellowship with friends and family. The venue has a nice dinner menu, and a wide selection of coffee drinks as well. Just as Westminster is inclusive, we encourage inviting guests for this special night. We consider this a family friendly event and we can't wait to sing with you!



Pasta Feed and Cake Auction

Youth Fundraiser for Lohmen Trip

Upcoming Event: **SAVE THE DATE**

February 11, 2018

Are you a dessert enthusiast? Do you happen to like cake? Me too, make sure you save the date for this youth fundraiser because it is going to be fun! Come view some amazingly delicious cakes and place your bids between 8:30 am and noon. There will be a Pasta Feed after the 10:30 worship and the winners will be announced at noon. You will be able to buy your tickets ahead from youth at a table in the Garden Room.


YOU'RE INVITED
to our annual
**HOLIDAY
COOKIE
EXCHANGE**
on **December 20th**
at **WOW DINNER**
BRING FOUR DOZEN OF YOUR FAVORITE COOKIES
**If you plan on participating:
please RSVP by Dec 13th
to 402.475.6702**

New Year's Eve Worship

Sunday, December 31st

10:30 AM Worship Service Only



CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS

Dr. Andrew McDonald Is the 2017 Homesteader of the Year!!

The Giles Outstanding Homesteader Award, named in honor of the Rev. Robert Giles, former Stated Clerk of Homestead Presbytery, honors clergy or laity in the Presbytery who have made outstanding contributions to church and community life, particularly for service at the presbytery level. The recipient for 2017 is our pastor, Dr. Andrew McDonald.

Dr. McDonald has served for 19 years as Pastor of Westminster, the largest congregation in the Presbytery, holding a number of offices, including moderator of the Presbytery Personnel Committee, past member of Council and past moderator of the Nominations Committee, Chair of the Executive Presbyter Search Committee, and Major Gift Campaign for Camp Calvin Crest. He is an active member of Rotary Club International and active in TED Talks.

He was chosen for this honor specifically because of his leadership in planning and hosting the annual Church Growth Summit. This event is not only for Homestead Presbytery, but includes delegates from churches in Missouri Valley Presbytery and Central Nebraska Presbytery, as well as ecumenical delegates from other denominations. The quality of leadership that he recruits each year for keynote addresses and leading sessions at the Summit is outstanding. The Summit is a means by which Dr. McDonald insists indefatigably that we Presbyterians must keep the task of evangelism before us as a priority. And he exhibits this dedication to church growth in the practices of Westminster Church.



**Congratulations to
Rev. Dr. Andrew
McDonald!**



CONGREGATION NEWS & EVENTS

Westminster Sanctuary is celebrating its 90th Year!

We have hit a milestone church anniversary and we thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon our congregation throughout these ninety years of ministry. The impact of the church in the lives of people of our community is tremendous. By the grace of God, we have seen the growth, the transformation and dedication in the lives of our members. Happy Anniversary Westminster Sanctuary. And thank you to those generous members who have helped grow the endowments for the building, the stained glass windows and the organ. If you would like to add to the sanctuary endowments, you can do this through the Westminster Foundation.



Let it shine!

Just as Nebraska turns its coldest and darkest, Westminster's Garden Room will soon become home to 70 some 16" SUN cut-outs, ready for your creative touch. Families, groups, and individuals are invited for a small donation to claim a sun to decorate, name and display during our annual spring Creation Celebration. After a celebratory exhibition, the suns will be auctioned with all proceeds going to Westminster's purchase of one (or more!) of the panels in the LES Community Solar Facility. Sign up starts in the Garden Room in December and suns will be due back in March.

FOUNDATION BIRTHDAYS

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

Jim Bishop, Phyllis Pauley, Tami Wellmann
and Maddie Whitehead.



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Birth: Congratulations to Chris Campbell Eells and Derrick Eells on the birth of a son, Foster Theodore, born November 12; grandfather is Mike Campbell.

Baptisms: Gavin Lee, son of Nicole Nichols and Scott Johnson on October 8 and Everett Porter, son of Danae and Blake Sandusky; Maxwell Kirkor and Parker Margaret, son and daughter of Jessica and Michael Yesilcimen on November 12.

Bereavement: Comfort for the family and friends of Ed Faytinger, who died on October 1, Mary Lois Schell who died on October 17, and Ellen Charlton who died on October 27.



2017 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

2017 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM **Share the joy of Christmas!**

Order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one to be displayed in the chancel on Christmas Eve.

Please specify all information on the form below and return to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Attn.: Marge
110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502

Cost of each poinsettia is \$15. Please make checks payable to Westminster and write **POINSETTIA** on the memo line.

Orders must be **received by December 19**
to be included in the order of worship.

PLEASE PRINT:

___ I would like to purchase _____ Poinsettia (s).

AND/OR

___ I would like to make a cash donation to the Westminster Library.

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Amount Enclosed \$_____

___ I will take my poinsettia home.

___ The Deacons may deliver my poinsettia to the elderly.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Preschool Story Time | 9 am—Preschool-aged children may join Jennifer McCollough for a Bible Story, an activity and lots of community-building through play on Sundays in Rm 210.

Kindergarten of Eden--Preschool Sunday School | 10:45 am — Volunteers warmly welcome preschoolers in Rm 210 for lessons in Growing Grace & Gratitude. This month, lessons will focus on waiting and preparing for Jesus. You can continue the lessons through the week with the stories and Grace Sightings activities found online at growinggracegratitude.org.

Faith Village — K-5th Grade We will be delving into a unit called “The Gift of Jesus”. The children will learn what Christmas is really about— God’s great gift to us in Jesus, and that we can share this wonderful story with others by our words and actions. On December 3 and 17, your children can join us from 10:45-11:40 am for workshops, or from 9-10 am for computer fun on Sunday mornings.

Special December schedule for Faith Village AND Kindergarten of Eden:

December 10-- No Sunday School at 10:45. Children who are not involved in the Christmas Musical are invited to remain in worship for the musical.

December 24 and December 31 — No regular Sunday School at 9 am or 10:45. Children are invited to worship with their parents.

The Faith Village offering continues to grow! As of Nov. 12, \$62.18 had been received for the gift of a bag of Moringa Tree Seeds and hygiene kits. Just a few more weeks to go until we will shift our offering focus for the New Year.

Faith Village Volunteer Opportunities

It’s time to set up winter/spring schedules for Faith Villagers. The children would love to have YOU lead a workshop for a month (fun and very user-friendly material), or Shepherd them every other week for 3 months (no preparation). You will be trained, assisted, and supported. Please contact Barbara for more information, 402-475-6702.

Faith Building Blocks — “2 by 2, God Makes a Promise to You!” will be held on January 17 for 2nd Graders and parents. They are invited to experience the Bible story of a faithful man named Noah, reminding us that God loves all creation. Children will explore God’s love, and how faithful people make choices that honor God. Please contact Barbara if you wish to participate in a Faith Building Blocks event. 402-475-6702 barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.

The Lord’s Prayer: 5th Grade, Wednesday, February 28 at 6:30 pm.

The Sacraments: 4th Grade, Wednesday, March 28 at 6:30 pm



Green @ Heart Creation

December Challenge:

Last year the “average consumer” spent \$936 on Christmas gifts, food, and decorations. The merry chiming of cash registers is important not only to our economy, but also to many of the traditions we enjoy in our families and our faith community. But such a substantial investment deserves some careful thought. Watch the Vine during December for suggestions of ways to “Celebrate Responsibly!”

Your GREEN@HEART CREATION CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER:

“Celebrate Responsibly”

Westminster Food Pantry

Over **1000** items were donated to our Food Pantry! Thank you for helping us make this one of our best food pantry drives to date.

Our music groups are always accepting new members

Stop by a rehearsal, or contact John Ross at atjohn@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-475-6702 x 111 for more information.

Do you play a brass instrument?

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

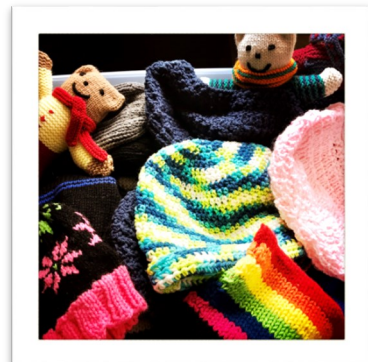
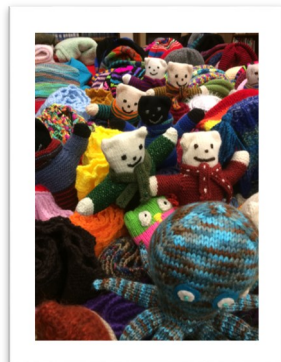
Contact John Ross at 402-475-6702 or john@westminsterlincoln.org for more information.

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.

Knit & Sit Donations

Warm hats, scarves, and other things were created this year to give to our friends at the People's City Mission.



WOW — Westminster on Wednesdays

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

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

Children's Choirs

Our children's choirs meet for singing, games and activities Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 pm in Room 210. Our Cherub Choir is for 3 to 5 year old's, and our Alleluia! Amen! Choir is designed for K-5th graders .

WOW Parenting Life Group: 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:

Babra@westminsterlincoln.org

or call 402-475-6702.

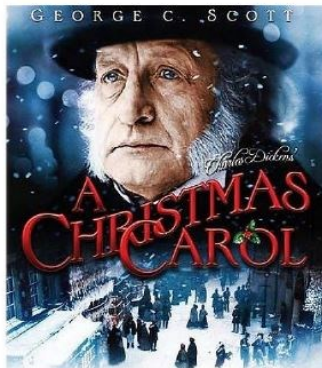
WOW DECEMBER DINNER MENU Served in Cole Hall | 5:45– 6:30 PM \$4/Children, \$6/Adults, \$17 Max/Family All dinners include salad, fruit & dessert

DEC 6 Spaghetti w/meat sauce & homemade garlic bread DEC 13 Ham slices, hot spiced apples & potato casserole

DEC 20 Tatar tot-green bean casserole & Cookie Exchange DEC 27 NO WOW

WOW ADULT EDUCATION FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS

Join us in the Westminster Theater for WOW
on December 6 and 13 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.



Rediscover the Joy of Christmas Spirit!

Popcorn and M&Ms provided



SUNDAY ADULT ED & BIBLE CLASS

Sunday Adult Education *Imagine the First Christmas. . . for Mary and Joseph*

the bewilderment and confusion they experienced, the faithfulness and trust in God they exhibited, and ultimately, the wonder, awe, and joy they shared.

December 3 – “Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph”
by Ernie Hines.

December 10 – “Christmas through the Eyes of Mary”
by Ernie Hines.

December 17 – “Christmas through the Eyes of God”
by Rev. Dr. Shelbourn.



Westminster Bible Class

Join us any Sunday in December | 9AM | Parlor

Faith is central to Christian faith. Christ is the basis of salvation, how we live life no matter what it brings. Through faith, we serve God and other people. For the next three months, we will focus on “Faith in Action,” and we invite you to join us on the journey.

December Theme: The Early Church Proclaims Faith in Christ

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

DECEMBER 3: Faith in Jesus | Acts 3 | led by Steve Carveth.

DECEMBER 10: Faith to Discern | Acts 13:1-12 | led by Kent Wolf.

DECEMBER 17: Faith to Persevere | Acts 14; Colossians 2:6-7 | led by Gary Haller.

DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve | NO CLASS

DECEMBER 31: NO CLASS

Come As You Are—Coffee & Co.



if you are between 15 and 30 years of age, join us on for coffee, scones, and casual conversation on Sunday mornings. Meet in Fellowship Hall from 10:00 until 10:30 a.m., right after The Rising. Gather around a table with friends to discuss the weekly scripture passages and the sermon. Share your perspective on the message and how it relates to your life. Discussion leaders will be Adam Luedtke, Devon Nelson, and Andrew Finkner.





Presbyterian Women of Westminster Circles

Presbyterian Women of Westminster Circles engage in monthly Bible study, mission, prayer and nurturing of one another. **Circle 3:** December 6 at 10 AM. **Hostess:** Glenna Haller, **Leader:** Linda Miller. **Circle 4:** December 4, Meet at the Green Gateau at 5:45 PM **Hostess:** Faye Moulton, **Leader:** Kathy Anderson. **Circle 5:** December 12 at 10 AM in the Lounge. **Leader:** Pat Hackley. **Circle 6:** No meeting in December.

Lunch Bunch— Tuesday, December 5 | 11:30 AM

We are meeting at Cheddar's, 5424 "O" Street. Come for fellowship & good food. All are welcome. Questions? Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883.

History Buffs — Saturday, December 9 | 9 AM | Lounge

Our December History Buff presentation is by Carol and Ernie Thayer and is entitled, "A visit to the Presidential Libraries". They have fulfilled their goal of visiting all of the Presidential Libraries and have a very interesting experiences to share with us. Can anyone guess which Presidential Library was the first one built?

World on a Plate — Friday, December 15 | 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.

Prairie Readers—Wed, December 20 | 1 PM | Parlor

Bring some snack food to share and join us for some joyous social time together as we watch a Christmas film.

Ladies Night Out— Tuesday, December 12 | 5-7 PM | Billy's 1301 H Street

Invite your friends for an evening of fun & getting to know Westminster Presbyterian Church ladies over food and drinks. All ladies are welcome to join. \$10 appetizers + tip and tax. No RSVP required; drop in at your leisure and bring a friend. Non-Westminster members welcome! Contact person: Robyn Uebele.

Sausage, Eggs & Scripture—Sat, December 16 | 8 AM | Scooter's 2901 S 84th Street

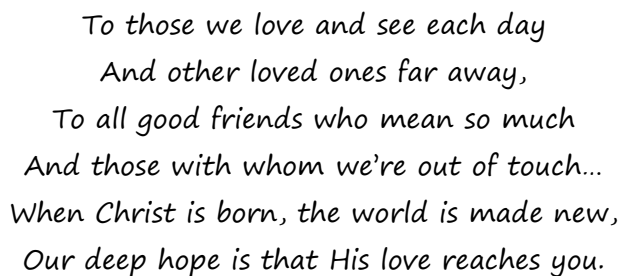
Men's Bible Study & Breakfast led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn. Questions? Contact Jimmy— 402-475-6702.

Faith & Cancer— Tuesday, December 19 | 7 PM

No matter where you are in your journey, this group is where cancer survivors can come together for fellowship, prayer and study. This Life Group meets every third Tuesday of the month from 7-8 pm in the Parlor. Contact : Bruce Sheffield



westminsterlincoln.org



Merry Christmas!

The Westminster Pastors & Staff