



THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2018

Thank-You

Friends,

I want to say thank you.

Thank you for letting me be your pastor. For the joy of sharing new beginnings — celebrating weddings and baptizing babies. Thank you for sharing your hopes — where you wanted to go. Thank you for sharing the journey — the mountains and the valleys, and the smooth spots along the road. Thank you for sharing the conversation along the way — it was always delightful.

Thank you for supporting and championing me, materially and spiritually. Thank you for taking my half-baked ideas, putting them back in the oven, and presenting them anew as a wonderful feast. Thank you for opening yourselves in allowing me to be your teacher — authority is not commanded but given, and you gave me that gift. Thank you for being such an inspiring church — new ideas find a welcome at Westminster.

Thank you for investing in this wonderful church — your time, your talent, your tithes. Thank you for your loyalty — I am glad I could count on you. Thank you for giving me the great honor of saying good-bye to your loved ones — those moments where we experience the good news of Christ's resurrection are the center of our life.

Thank you for being good Presbyterians — among the global family of faith, you continued the tradition of being the clear thinkers at the table. Thank you for sharing your stories — they give meaning to life. Thank you for teaching me so much over so many years.

Thank you for the next few weeks. I just can't say it enough.

Thank you.

Andrew McDonald

Senior Pastor



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Pedals, Pipes & Pinot Sign-Up!

Sign-up is underway in the Garden Room for the highly requested adult sequel to last Fall's Pedals, Pipes & Pizza event for children. Clear your schedules for an afternoon of entertainment and enlightenment as we explore the sounds and mechanics of Westminster's Casavant pipe organ. Our Pedals, Pipes & Pinot event will begin in Westminster's beautiful sanctuary at 3:30pm on Saturday, March 10th. After the program, we'll adjourn to a nearby member's residence for fellowship and adult refreshments. Anyone is welcome for the organ presentation, and those who are interested in attending the after party are requested to RSVP in the garden room by Sunday, March 4th so that we can plan to have enough hors d'oeuvres and wine.

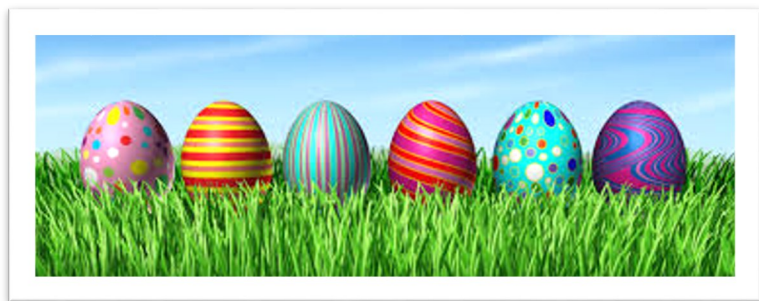


Adopt an Egg Program

Eggs are available for "Adoption" at the East Entrance. Grab a bag or two of empty eggs, fill them up with goodies for the Westminster Easter Egg Hunt. Please return the filled eggs by Sunday, March 25. Thank you for helping to make this event fun & exciting for the children.

Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday, March 31 | 10:00 AM

Easter is just around the corner, which means it's time to make plans and figure out where to go to hunt for your Easter eggs. Come to Westminster for the perfect chance to find Easter eggs filled with candy and surprises. Bring the whole family and enjoy searching together to find delicious treats. This year's EASTER EGG HUNT starts promptly at 10:10 AM.

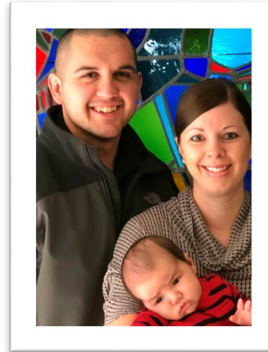
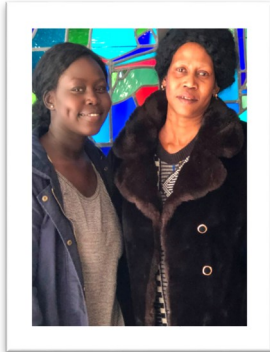




CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Westminster Welcomes New Members

Welcome to the following new members who joined Westminster on February 11th: John Ruach, Nyajang Yuol & Buok Koang, Wiw Tut, Nyakeni Bichoik, Nyayang, Kawang, Sophia, Kuichrol, and Parrngoak Nyoun & Tyler, Rachel & Hudson Lindstedt.



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.

The Easter Garden Bulletin Board

Based on Holy Week, we began with palm leaves to remember Palm Sunday, add a grape arbor to represent the Last Supper, and will continue in the weeks to come. You are invited to participate in creating this interactive bulletin board.





CONGREGATIONAL NEWS & EVENTS

Easter Brunch

April 1 | Fellowship Hall | 9:30-11 am

A Life Group of Men of Westminster will be serving an Easter Brunch. The menu will feature cinnamon rolls, sausage, fruit and beverages. A free will offering will benefit the expenses of Westminster Youth travelling to German this coming summer. Join us and bring your out-of-town company!

2018 Easter Lily Order Form

Order a lily in memory or honor of a loved one to be displayed in the chancel on Easter morning, or donate money to one of the Westminster Endowment Funds. **Cost of each lily is \$16.** Endowments may be any amount. Checks should be made payable to Westminster, memo "LILY".

Specify all information on the form below and return to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church Attn: Marge
2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68502

I/We would like to purchase _____ lily/lilies.

I/We would like to make a gift of \$ _____ for one of the following Westminster Endowment Funds.

Please check one: _____ Mission and Outreach Endowment _____ Music and Worship Endowment
_____ General Purpose Endowment _____ The Great Commission Endowment
_____ Facilities Endowment _____ Education Endowment

Given by _____

_____ in loving memory of _____ OR

_____ in honor of _____

_____ I will take my lily home following the 11 am service.

_____ The Deacons may deliver my lily to the elderly and homebound.

Orders must be received by March 27 to be included in the order of worship.



MISSION & OUTREACH

The Well Project

SAVING LIVES in South Sudan and Niger 2018, 2019 & 2020

In South Sudan and Niger, millions of women and children trek up to eight hours a day to collect water from marshes, ditches or hand-dug trenches where water is often contaminated. Parasites and bacteria cause severe sickness, and even death, especially in young children. The people often have no choice what to drink. However tainted, water is crucial for survival.



We Have A Dream and We Want to Partner with You! Our dream is to build 10 wells that will provide water and save lives in this needy area of the world. We believe that this significant project could help provide health and stability to a number of villages. Given that children and adults die from waterborne diseases, this is a project that will literally save lives. We need your help. We are looking for partner groups to support this life saving work. Each well project costs approximately \$3,000.

How is this Project Different? Many organizations go for a brief stay in areas of drought, dig a well, and leave. A researcher from the University of Nebraska, discovered that within a few years, the majority of such wells are broken and no longer in use. The people end up demoralized, having been promised of a false future. This “brief stay” approach neglects two crucial dimensions of need. First of all, it does not empower the people of the area to learn to dig and repair their own wells. Second, it does not educate the local people about the importance of public health or change long-held cultural practices regarding water. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has a totally different approach. When the PCUSA sends someone to dig a well in such areas, they make a long-term commitment – usually 10 years. In short, the approach of the PCUSA is to change the local culture in its understanding of water and sanitation. We do this with over a century of partnership in this region. We honor local customs, traditions, language and leadership. If the idea of saving lives and changing communities in a small but important part of the world interests you and your group, please contact: Gary Haller, txhaller2@att.net, David Szabat, waskily@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DRAMA CAMP! “The Little Mermaid”

Camp Week: Monday-Friday, March 12-16 | 9 am - 3 pm.

Performance: Saturday, March 17, 2018, 3 pm.

Missoula Children’s Theatre is returning to Westminster! Children K-6th grade are welcome to join us under the sea for Westminster’s 7th Annual Drama Camp! Register online: www.westminsterlincoln.org or pick up a registration form. Registration fees are \$185.00 and include a commemorative t-shirt. Payment must be made when submitting the registration form. Tickets for the performance are \$5; kids 12 & under free! Youth helpers needed.

Contact Barbara: 402-475-6702 or barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.



VBS ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE:

Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

June 17 noon-2pm; June 18—20, 9 am- Noon

Children ages 4—Grade 5. Family kick-off on Sunday, June 17! Join us for 10:30 worship, followed by lunch, registration, and the beginning of an adventure down the river! Registration opens this month at www.westminsterlincoln.org.

This VBS experience includes music that will energize your ears, interactive Bible fun, super science, cool crafts, “the shoe that grows” mission, delicious snacks, great games, and more! Hope to see you for some RAPID fun, Rafters! Adult and youth are invited to guide the young rafters on the river. Team building begins now—plan to participate in this church-wide and community ministry by contacting Barbara Hipple, 402-475-6702., or barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.





GREEN@ HEART

Let it shine! Friday, April 6th

**FIRST FRIDAY GALA OPENING at the
Non-Profit Hub, 211 North 14th Street**

Music, Refreshments & beverages, and parking next door...

Here Come the Suns!



All proceeds will be applied to the purchase of one or more LES solar panels, giving Westminster a small break in our electric bill and establishing *"Our Place in the Sun"*. This investment in clean energy is one way that Westminster lives out our commitment, as an Earth Care Congregation, practicing respect and good stewardship of all creation.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO CONSERVE ENERGY?



March's Green@Heart theme is energy conservation.

What are ways you conserve energy in your home?

In your work? In your life?

Being frugal with energy is an important part of our stewardship of God's creation. How can we do better? It could be as simple as turning off the lights when you leave a room. I'll be sharing a few ideas through March but I'd like to have your ideas to share as well. Email Steve McConnell at veg-gieduderanch@yahoo.com



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Palm Sunday, March 25

Children ages 3 and up can join the Palm Sunday Parade. Bring your child and their OGHS fish bank to Cole Hall. Parents may stay in Cole Hall and process with the children if they wish.

FAITH VILLAGE 9 and 10:45 AM

This month, we JOURNEY TO THE CROSS. Children will learn about the last week of Jesus' life as he journeyed to the cross.



FAITH BUILDING BLOCKS

NEW OFFERING PROJECT

Faith Village children will be joining the church-wide project to provide wells for communities in Africa who do not have easy access to clean water. 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. Please help by encouraging regular giving.



KINDERGARTEN OF EDEN at 10:45 AM in Room 210

March brings new lessons for our Preschool children as they learn about Jesus' life and that Jesus is Alive! 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—free!—for iBooks and Kindle.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

FISH BANKS

Fish banks have been distributed to KOE and Faith Village children, so they might participate in the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. Contributions go to help others live a better life in ways children can understand: sharing bread with the hungry, providing shelter for disaster survivors, and helping others to help themselves by teaching life skills. Having a daily family devotion at a regular time (such as at the dinner table) and placing money in the bank in response is a good way to help the children be intentional about their giving. Return the banks offerings on Palm Sunday, March 25. If your child did not receive a bank, you may pick one up at Front Desk with the accompanying map/calendar or at Sunday School any week.



THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Faith Building Blocks for 4th Graders:

The Sacraments: A special workshop for 4th graders and a parent on Wednesday, March 28 in preparation for Maundy Thursday Communion in the chapel at 6:40 to learn about Communion and Baptism. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to learn about these essential celebrations of our faith! Please RSVP if you are





WESTMINSTER MUSIC PROGRAM

Exciting Ukulele Purchase

There's a buzz around the Alleluia! Amen! Chorus. Thanks to a generous gift from Trinity McDonald's Memorial Endowment Fund, Westminster proudly purchased 10 new ukuleles for our children. They will debut during the Spring Creation Pageant on Sunday, April 8th, 2018 during 10:30am worship. The ukuleles will hang in a visible location in room 210 so that all can enjoy these beautiful, brightly colored instruments.



Looking to Grow the AV Team

We need YOUR help! Volunteers have been working behind the scenes during worship so that our congregation can clearly understand the Word of God. Their effort not only helps us on Sunday mornings, but also allows us to reach a wider network of disciples through our television and YouTube broadcasts. We need more people to join our team! Please contact John at john@westminsterlincoln.org if you would consider spending one or more Sundays a month worshipping from the AV booth. Training and/or shadowing can be arranged to fit in your schedule.

Westminster is so grateful to Jeff Adamson and Todd Eno for their many years of dedication to the audio-visual needs of our church, and their talents will be greatly missed. We are also thankful to Mike, Liam and Cael Dempsey for continuing this ministry every Sunday. Please consider signing up to help so that we can give them some time off.





WESTMINSTER MUSIC EVENTS

Johannes Brahms: *Ein Deutsches Requiem*

*Westminster Choir will present excerpts from this famous work
Sunday, March 25th at our 10:30 am worship.*

Church choirs across the world are busy rehearsing requiems by many of the great composers in preparation for Holy Week. While the term “requiem” refers to a Mass for the dead, critics have coined *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms a “Human Requiem” or a “Mass for the Living” due to the composer’s choice of texts. Due to time constraints, the *Requiem* will not be performed in its entirety. However, we will include the most beloved movement, “How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place”. This performance will feature baritone soloist Trey Meyer and pianists Travis Worsham and Dr. Brenda Wristen. The musicians will be led by guest conductor Dr. Matthew Oltman, UNL lecturer in choral activities and Music Director Emeritus of the Grammy award winning ensemble Chanticleer. Plan to attend this important worship service and consider reaching out to others in your life who might be moved by this deeply spiritual experience.

University Ensembles at Westminster — Save the Dates!

- ♦ Nebraska Trombone Ensemble will hold their Spring Concert on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00pm at Westminster.
- ♦ UNL Varsity Men’s Chorus will join us in worship on Sunday, April 15th at 10:30am.
- ♦ University Singers will hold their Spring Concert on Thursday, April 19th at 7:00pm at Westminster.





YOUTH MINISTRY & EVENTS

We are humbled by the generosity of the cake bakers, cake buyers and pasta eaters who supported the youth fund-raising event to help send our youth to Lohmen!



Here are a few of the many beautiful cakes that were donated to the Youth Cake Auction fundraiser.

BOWLING!

March 4 at Sun Valley Lanes.

Save the date, more details to come.



Babysitting Night

March 17 6-8:30. Bring your youngster(s) ages infant to 5th grade to hang out with our young adults! All proceeds will go to the Lohmen Youth towards their Lohmen Germany trip .





WESTMINSTER ON WEDNESDAY

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

Parenting Group: Parlor | 6:30 PM

Parenting. Fellowship. Support. Prayer.

Growing your child's faith. Adults share and discuss while children are nurtured in supervised care. Bring the family for WOW dinner at 5:30. Nursery Care for infants to 3 years old ; 3 year to Grade 5 may sing with the Choir. If interested, contact: Barbara@westminsterlincoln.org.

WOWXL—6:30 PM | Youth Café

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

Lenten Devotionals

March 7, 21 & 28 | Chapel | 6:20-6:30 PM

MUSIC REHEARSALS

6:40 pm Westminster Carillon | Sanctuary
6:40 pm Alleluia! Amen! Grades K-5 | Room 210
6:40 pm Cherub Choir Pre-K | Room 210 — East
7:40 pm Westminster Choir | Sanctuary

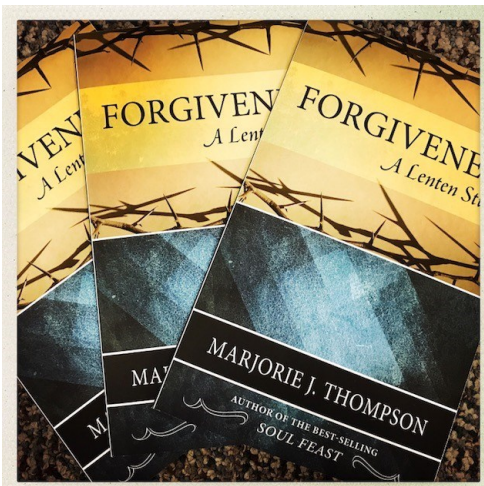
MARCH DINNER MENU

Cole Hall | 5:30–6:30 PM

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

MARCH 7 Taco Bar
MARCH 14 Spring Break No Dinner
MARCH 21 Runza & fries
MARCH 28 Baked chicken, rice & broccoli

Adult Education on Wednesdays: Lenten Study Group



Meet in the Lounge | 6:30 PM

Participants will read and discuss a book by Marjorie Thompson entitled "*Forgiveness: a Lenten Study*."

Dr. Thompson is a Presbyterian minister and author of a best-seller - *Soul Feast: an Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*. Our group will meet from Feb. 21– March 28.



SUNDAY ADULT ED & BIBLE CLASS

ADULT EDUCATION Meets in the Lounge | 9 AM

March 4: The Reformation Documents

March 11: The Nature of Christ.

March 18: The Barmen Declaration (1934) & The Confession of 1967.

March 25: The Brief Statement of Faith (1994) & the Belhar Confession (1982; adopted 2016).

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Join us any Sunday in February | 9AM | Parlor

One thing that can be said of Christians is that we acknowledge God in our lives. Our faith focuses on who God is and what God has done, especially in Jesus Christ. We acknowledge who we are and in what we seek to recognize and acknowledge the great and good God we worship and serve. This is the theme of study for Westminster Bible Class this Spring. Won't you join us? Come once in awhile or each Sunday. We look forward to sharing our study together with you.

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

March 4: Obedience Pleasing to God | Genesis 22:1-14 | led by Ellen Davis.

March 11: Revisiting History | 2 Chronicles 6:12-21 | led by Bill North.

March 18: The People Gave Thanks | 2 Chronicles 7:1-9 | led by Kaye Wolfe.

March 25: Keep my Statutes and Ordinances | 2 Chronicles 7:12-22 | led by Gary Haller.

Foundation Birthdays February 2018

Cliff Hollestle, Andrew McDonald, George Peterson, Kiann Ridgeway, Reji Schirmer and Lee Sonderegger. Thank you for your support of the Westminster Foundation.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Baptism: Hudson Dale, son of Rachel & Tyler Lindstedt.



Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, March 6 | 11:30 AM

We are meeting at Toast this month, 570 Fallbrook Blvd. # 105. Come for fellowship & good food. Lunch Bunch meets at a different dining establishment on the first Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Questions? Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883.

History Buffs

Rescheduled due to icy roads

Thursday, March 8 | 6:30PM | Lounge

"On Ancient Wings" a fascination discussion about Sandhill Cranes. Michael Forsberg, an award winning American Conservation Photographer, will be here to speak to us about Sandhill Cranes. Take note that this month's meeting is on the 24th.

History Buffs

Saturday, March 10 | 9 AM | Lounge

John and Laura Ross will do a presentation on the life of Johannes Brahms and his compositions as a prelude to the upcoming Johannes Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem as the Westminster Choir will present excerpts from this famous work on Sunday, March 25th at our 10:30 am worship.

Sausage, Eggs & Scripture

Sat., March 17 | 8 AM Scooter's 2901 S 84th St.

Men of Westminster are invited to a breakfast Bible study on the third Saturday of each month. We meet in the private dining room of Scooter's, just south of 84th and Van Dorn. Dr. Shelbourn leads the study which concludes promptly at 9 am. For more info, call Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

LNO—Ladies Night Out

Monday, March 19 | 5-7pm

Hacienda Real 3131 Pine Lake Rd

Invite your friends for a fun evening of getting to know WPC ladies over appetizers and drinks. All ladies are welcome, and invite a friend! Please RSVP Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com.

Faith & Cancer

Tuesday, March 20 | 7 PM | Parlor

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 at the same time every third Tuesday of each month. Contact : Bruce Sheffield.

Prairie Readers

Wednesday, March 21 | 1 PM

Westminster Parlor

Book Selection:

"All the Things I Never Told you"
by Celeste Ng.

Facilitator Linda Burchard.

Tour de Friends

TDF will start back up in April

Start getting your bicycles prepared to ride trails through Lincoln with Westminster's Tour de Friend's Cycling Life Group. All rides are no-drop, meaning the group won't leave anyone behind. Helmets are required and you'll need to carry your own water. Most rides are between 8– 12 miles. Contact : Tracy Murray @ 402-475-6702.



♦
SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.
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westminsterlincoln.org

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 25 | 8, 9:20

10:30 AM — *Johannes Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem*

Westminster Choir

Trey Meyer, baritone soloist

Travis Worsham and Dr. Brenda Wristen, pianists

Dr. Matthew Oltman, guest conductor

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 29 | 7 PM

Good Friday: Friday, March 30 | Noon & 7 PM

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 1

9 AM — Westminster Choir, Carillon, and Brass; Nebraska Brass

10 AM — The Rising

11 AM — Westminster Choir, Carillon, and Brass; Nebraska Brass