



THE MESSENGER

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

Stewardship and Finance.....pg. 2
Congregational News.....pg. 3
Celebrating Lohmen.....pg. 4
Adult Education.....pg. 5
Faith Through the Generations....pgs. 6-7
Community Events.....pgs. 8-9
WPC Food Pantry.....pg. 10
Prayer Ministry & Groups.....pg. 11
Environmental Stewardship...pg. 12
Confirmation Class.....pg. 12

Sept. 8th GENESIS SUNDAY

Sundays are for being...
WILD!

Worship
Invitational
Loving
Discipleship



*Bring the whole family and invite a friend for a day
full of food, games, live music, and lots of wild surprises!*

The Per Capita Connection

Westminster Friends,

Per Capita. It's a strange term. But if you look beyond the awkward wording, you'll see its more accurate meaning...Presbyterian Connection. Every year our church contributes, for lack of a better term, per capita "dues" to support the operations of our regional presbytery as well as operations of the national PC(USA) church office and general assembly. The per capita is the *"tie that binds"* to connect our Lincoln church congregation with the Presbyterian Church at large. Our giving to this fund brings Westminster together with over 9,000 other churches to:

- Partner with ecumenical bodies worldwide to promote Christian unity
- Witness on behalf of the church on social issues
- Provide funding to bring commissioners to General Assembly and other events
- Administer the Church Leadership Connection system for calling pastors
- Publish and distribute the *Book of Order* and the *Book of Confessions*
- Address issues of inclusion and representation across the church
- Support a portion of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and mid-council ministries
- Plan and host the biennial General Assembly

For 2019, Westminster is required to contribute \$45 in per capita dues times the total number of our active members as determined by Homestead Presbytery for the prior year 2018...1,265 members. That adds up to a commitment of \$57,000 we will need to fulfill soon.

On behalf of the Session and the Financial Leadership Council, I ask each of you to consider a gift to support the per capita for each church member in your family. And in this this challenging budget year, I ask that you also consider making an additional gift toward the per capita... for one or more others in our congregation who may be facing financial challenges that prevent them from giving to the Per Capita at this time. Friends, we need you.

Gifts can be made by check, via special envelope in the Sunday offering, or on our website via the GIVE ONLINE tab where I just did... fast and easy. Also, so that we know to direct and recognize your generosity, please be sure to indicate "Per Capita" with your gift. Thank you!

Allen Wachter

Elder and Co-Moderator, Stewardship & Finance Ministry



2019 Presbyterian Connection PER CAPITA Fund Commitment

Please record our family's gifts to the Presbyterian Connection Per Capita fund as follows:

_____ Gift(s) x \$45 for the church members in my family \$_____

_____ Gift(s) x \$45 as additional gifts to help another family's giving \$_____

Name: _____ Total \$_____



CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

The Pastor Nominating Committee Report (PNC)

Nine members of the congregation were nominated and elected to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). They are: Andrew Finkner, Michael Gregg, Steve Hughes, Jim Kinkennon, Sandi Larson, Deb Schorr, Alisha Stokes, Allen Wachter and Joyce Douglas, Moderator.

These members represent the whole congregation and have the responsibility for nominating an individual to present to the congregation to serve as our Head of Staff. In the future months, the PNC will journey through the search process seeking to hear the call of Christ. The first step will be to review the documentation from our group meetings held last Fall which represents the needs of Westminster and then complete the Ministry Information Form. The PNC has received reading materials already and will begin meeting together in early August.

The PNC plans to keep the congregation informed on the status of this search.

Our journey begins..... *Joyce Douglas, Moderator*

LOOKING AHEAD

Sun. August 4th—Celebrating Lohmen, our sister church in Germany
(after worship, meet in chancel)

Tues., Aug. 6th — Lunch Bunch at 11:30am at Greenfield's.

Every Wednesday (year-round) Knit and Sit and Prayer Ministry, 6:30pm, Library

Sun., Aug. 11th – Blessing of the Backpacks

Sun. Aug. 11th—Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival & Pre Concert Chat with Eric Higgins

Sat. Aug. 17th—Sausage, Eggs, and Scripture, Scooter's (2901 S. 84th), 8—9am

Sun. Aug. 18th *through* Sun. Aug. 25th – Westminster Book Sale

Sun. Aug. 18th—Notable Presbyterians Presentation

Wed. Aug. 21st—Prairie Readers, 1pm, Parlor

Sat. Aug. 24th—Presbyterian Women introduction
to the Fall Bible Study, 9am, Fellowship Hall

Sun. Aug. 25th— "Taste and Cheese that the Lord is Good,"
Adult Ed., Lounge, 10:40am

Tues, Aug. 27th — Ladies' Night Out at Billy's, 5-7pm

Sun. Sept. 8th—Genesis Sunday, KOE & Sunday School resume (ages 3—5th gr.), &
Confirmation meeting with students (starting 8th & 9th grades) & parents

Wed. Sept. 11th— "Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace
University" Seminar, 9 Wednesdays, 6-8pm, Lounge

Wed., Sept. 11th—Parents' Night Out resumes,
Wednesdays, 5—7 pm



CELEBRATING LOHMEN

August 4th - Celebrating Lohmen

Westminster was invited to attend the dedication of a building addition on the parish house. In lieu of traveling we are making a video, sending gifts (specially crafted stained glass), telling stories and eating German snacks. We'll start on the chancel then move to Fellowship Hall. Please remain in the Sanctuary to produce the video after worship Aug. 4th.



The Luther rose and the Presbyterian cross logo are in the mail to Germany.

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH BOOK SALE

The Book Sale is coming! The Book Sale is coming!

It's that time of the year when the halls fill up with tables of books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, games, and all sorts of treasures! So check your shelves and closets for anything you want to donate. This year's sale will be from **August 18 through August 25**; please bring your donations to the library no later than **August 14**. Then plan to join in the fun and search for new books to read.



(right) Sudanese Choir. Worship time each Sunday is at noon in the Chapel with Leader Elizabeth Bilew.





ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

Sunday Bible Class Invites You

Sunday Bible Class meets each Sunday morning at 10:45 in the Parlor. Our focus in the Sunday sermon text. All are welcome to drop in any Sunday and join the discussion around coffee. August Gospel texts for Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary are:

August 4 – Luke 12:13-21

August 11 – Luke 12:32-40

August 18 – Luke 12:49-56

August 25 – Luke 13:10-17



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH:

Four different circle groups will begin meeting monthly in September. If you are interested in joining a group, contact Rev. Ellen Davis at ellen@westminsterlincoln.org for more information. Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn will present an introduction to the study on Saturday, August 24 in Fellowship Hall with refreshments beginning at 9 a.m.

FORUM

Aug. 4—Celebrating Lohmen

Note: Faith Village and KOE will return on Sept. 8th for children ages 3—5th grade.



Aug. 11— Pre-Concert Chat: Eric Higgins (a Lincoln product) is an internationally acclaimed bass player. He is performing at WPC on the afternoon of the 11th and has agreed to share some stories about his musical career.

Eric has also been a tenured member of the Hamburg State Opera Orchestra and an active chamber musician throughout Europe, the U.S. and South America. In 2013, he relocated to Boston where he joined A Far Cry Chamber Orchestra, plays regularly with Handel & Haydn Society.

Aug. 18 — Notable Presbyterians: Last winter, Steve Larson's presentation on Roy Rogers/Dale Evans, Jimmy Stewart (and others) was mostly snowed out and all five of us who were there agreed that it was too good—and should be repeated.

Aug. 25 — Taste and Cheese that the Lord is Good
Pastors and church leaders offer their perspectives followed by a lively discussion about the implications of Westminster's commitments and future as an Earth care Congregation. Enjoy a selection of gourmet cheeses, grapes and crackers as you listen and add your ideas.





FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

Preschool isn't normally the gateway to joining a church, but that's how it happened for Emily and Ryan Shelstad.

The couple and their three children — Evie, soon to be 8, and look-alike fraternal twins Elliot and Oliver, 5½ — locked into Westminster Preschool even before they bought their house, conveniently three-quarters of a mile from the church.

The family moved from Denver to Lincoln just three years ago, and finding a preschool for the children on the same schedule but in different classes took priority. Landing a house nearby was serendipitous, said Emily.

But it wasn't until a preschool singing performance at a worship service when Emily had an "aha" moment that church was something lacking in their family life. And so the family began regularly attending Sunday services.

Soon the couple opted to have the boys baptized, they joined the church as members, and Emily agreed to be on Session, the governing body of the church. She's now in her second year of a three-year term. It was a natural progression, she said.



Elliot and Oliver's graduation from Westminster Pre-Kindergarten in May.

Joining the ranks of Presbyterians came easily for these two, both raised in Omaha. Ryan's family attended a UCC church, and he was confirmed; Emily's practiced Catholicism. She attended Catholic schools from the start, including the Jesuit university Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles. But together church wasn't a big part of their lives.

And then it was.

At Emily's first Session meeting, the current pastor announced his resignation, and she ended up on an interim search committee for a transitional leader. After years of a top-down religious tradition, she said the idea that the laity does all the decision-making was a new one.

The "immersive experience" in Presbyterianism was positive; she went on to teach Sunday School for two years in the Kindergarten of Eden when her boys were in attendance.



2019 Attending a wedding

Ryan, who is a cardiothoracic surgeon with Bryan Heart, has had less time to commit to church activities, but was part of a men's group that discussed books, religion and various life issues.

On Sundays the family scurries up the center aisle to their regular near-front pew on the left just as the music starts. Early isn't in their genes, they confide, but they are usually there.



2019 American Heart Association Heart Ball, Co-Chaired by Ryan Shelstad.

Photos courtesy of Emily Shelstad

For these relative newcomers to Lincoln, the church has helped offer a sense of community they felt lacking in their previous big-city lives. Not only was it a conduit for making friends with other young families, the congregation included people of all ages actively involved in community engagement, like-minded people they might not have met elsewhere.

That cemented their feeling of being part of the fabric that makes this city special.

A stay-at-home mom since the boys were born in Denver, Emily spent years as a graphic designer, finally retiring from working as a print and pattern designer for Target Corporation in Minneapolis. She shares with Alisha Stokes the co-leader responsibilities for the 20 girls in Evie's Brownie troop and will be a new board member of the Friends of Lied in the fall. Plus she's agreed to be on the Sheridan PTO executive committee now that the boys will be starting kindergarten there. It's a lot to take on, she said, but all are things she really believes in.

As much as they love their new home in Lincoln, the Shelstads, both 41, love to travel as well. With Ryan's parents in San Antonio and Emily's in Santa Barbara, and three siblings on the East Coast, they have places to go. But they don't stop there; they have already taken their kids to Ireland and Mexico.

But sometimes the kids get left behind; they celebrated their 12th anniversary at the end of July in Napa, grown-ups only.

Article by Patty Beutler



Westminster "Spooktacular" Event



Family vacation in Colorado

FINANCIAL PEACE



"Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University" seminar

Starts Sept. 11, 2019
9 week program
Wed. 6 – 8pm

Cost: \$119 per couple includes books, workbooks.

Class size is limited to the 1st ten couples who sign up.

Classes will be held in the Lounge.
Childcare is available.



Lead Moderator
Evan Ellenwood
(402) 469-9506
e_ellenwood@hotmail.com

Assistant Moderator
Chris Stokes
(402) 770-6145
Cbstokes1@aol.com

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parent's Night Out will return beginning on September 11th.
This is an opportunity for children to enjoy one another as they learn about Jesus. Parent's are encouraged to drop off their children for two hours and go on a date, go to the grocery store or have time alone. Children will have a meal, music, Bible lesson, games and a bedtime story. Wednesdays, from 5 to 7 pm.



Mondays at noon: deadline for E-Vine * Wednesdays at noon: deadline for Vine

* 20th of each month: deadline for Messenger

Thank you!

COMMUNITY MUSIC FESTIVAL



Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival at Westminster

On Sunday, August 11, Westminster will host two events of the Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival. The Festival showcases classical, traditional and contemporary music to explore Lincoln's rich cultural mosaic created by the many groups of people from around the globe who have settled here since the city's founding. The August 11 events will include music from the Nordic traditions.

Come for a lively Dance Lesson and Open Dance at 3:00pm. Learn how to dance Swedish polskas and Norwegian vals to the sound of traditional Scandinavian folk music performed by Debbie Greenblatt and David Seay.

The 7:00pm evening concert, titled *Northern Lights*, will feature music from Iceland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland and a new commission for flute choir by Danish flutist and composer Marie Sønderskov. The concert will be broadcast live on NET Radio and hosted by *The Verge* host Genevieve Randall.

Visit the Festival's website for more information or to purchase tickets. <https://lincolncrossroadsmusic.org>

COMMUNITY HEALTH SCREENINGS

Life Line Screening—

The Power of Prevention

Fri. Sept. 20th. Pre-registration is required.
Please call 1-888-653-6450 for an appointment.

Take a step toward staying healthy and active. Life Line Screening has partnered with over 100 hospitals across the country and has conducted 8 million screenings since 1993. Package 1 offers the following: plaque, vascular disease, and heart rhythm package for a total of \$139. Add an osteoporosis screening for \$10 more.



WESTMINSTER FOOD PANTRY

Our Westminster Food Pantry has been moved, and we are so excited about this new location. We are now in Room 210A, located by the nursery. The collection box is now located in the main office.

So many of you have asked questions about the pantry and how it is organized. Our Westminster Food Pantry was established in 1992 and has been an ongoing project under the supervision of the Outreach Committee. The pantry provides food for one family of four, two families of three, and three families of two. The People's City Mission provides us with a list of items that are packed each week. Currently 270 items are packed weekly. We follow that list; however in some months we have had to spend over \$1,000 on groceries to meet the need. We purchase our groceries at a reduced price at Leon's, and they also deliver. We really appreciate monetary gifts. Remember to write Westminster Food Pantry at the bottom of your check.

In the past year Southview Christian Church has joined us and provided food. The two coordinators of the pantry are Marilyn Smith and Nora Hinrichs. They supervise the collection of donations, work with volunteers, and stock the shelves every week. We have 13 teams of packers that pack on a rotating basis. Every Tuesday a man from People's City Mission collects all our boxes and delivers them to the Mission. Because of the huge demand for food a family is able to receive a box every other month.

WPC Food Pantry Food Shopping List:

This is a list of what the food pantry uses each week.

- 10 rolls of toilet tissue
- 6 bottles of pancake syrup, 24 oz.
- 9 bars of hand soap
- 6 boxes of oatmeal, 18 oz.
- 6 bags of sugar, 2 lb.
- 6 jars of peanut butter, 16 oz.
- 14 cans of Spaghettios, 16 oz
- 16 boxes of mac and cheese, 7.25 oz.
- 7 cans of stew (or chili), 15 oz.
- 37 cans of vegetables, 15 oz.
- 15 cans of pork and beans, 16 oz.
- 7 packages of spaghetti, 16 oz.
- 13 boxes of Jello, 3 oz.
- 6 boxes of pancake mix, 32 oz.
- 6 boxes of dry breakfast cereal
- 6 bottles of cooking oil, 16 oz.
- 6 boxes of soda crackers, 16 oz.
- 7 packages of rice, 1 lb.
- 6 packages of dry noodles, 1 lb.
- 19 cans of tuna, 5 oz.
- 28 cans of canned fruit, 15 oz.
- 6 boxes of instant potatoes, 15 oz.
- 22 cans of soup, 15 oz.
- 6 cans of spaghetti sauce, 24 oz.

For 27 years you have provided groceries, volunteered, and financially supported this wonderful mission. Westminster's goal is to be "Spiritually Alive, Broadly Inclusive, and Growing in Mission." It is hoped that the food pantry contributes to the fulfillment of this goal. **Thank you.**



Knit & Sit

Prayer Ministry

Church Library

6:30 PM (every Wed.)

We warmly welcome you to come to knit, crochet, do other hand work, or pray for the concerns of the church.



Elders for the Earth

Adults 50 years and older can save the date now to enjoy a fall getaway at Platte River State Park, **Sunday, October 13th through**

Tuesday, October 15th. Enjoy an array of speakers, Drawdown Jeopardy, good food, live music, local wine tasting, and plenty of time to simply relax in these beautiful surroundings.



Faith & Cancer— Tues., Aug. 20th—7 PM in the Parlor

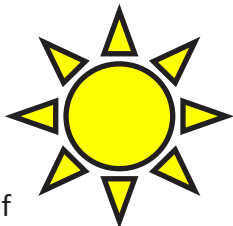
"Faith is a Journey - When we're lost in a dark wood and we need to find our way home, prayer is as good a path as we're likely to find."

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.

SAUSAGE, EGGS, AND SCRIPTURE

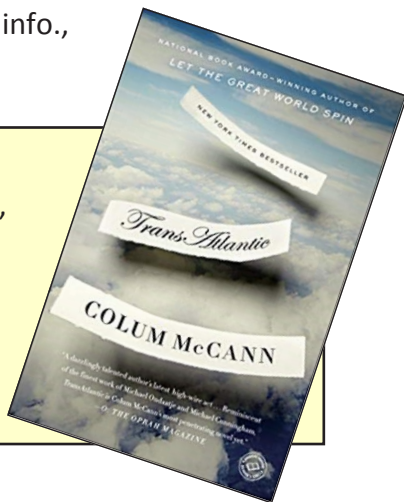
Sat. Aug. 17th at Scooter's 2901 S. 84th St.

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, (2901 S. 84th) just south of 84th and Van Dorn, at 8a.m., and Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn leads the study, which concludes promptly at 9a.m. For more info., call Jimmy at 402-475-6702.



PRAIRIE READERS

Wed., August 21, 1:00pm,
Westminster Parlor
Book: *Transatlantic*
by Colum McCann;
facilitator Linda
Burchard



LUNCH BUNCH:

We will meet on **Tues., Aug. 6th, at 11:30am** at Greenfield's, 7900 South 87th Street. Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883 for Information.



♦
SPIRITUALLY ALIVE
BROADLY INCLUSIVE
GROWING IN MISSION

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“Taste and Cheese that the Lord is Good”

*What does our denomination say about
environmental stewardship?*

*What does it mean that I belong to
an Earth Care Congregation?*

What practices would I like Westminster to start—or stop?

Bring your thoughts to the Adult Ed class in the Lounge, 10:40 on Sunday, August 25th. A panel of clergy and lay leaders will briefly explain Westminster’s Earth Care commitment and practices so far, and then open the discussion for YOUR questions, suggestions, concerns, and bright ideas.

And the “cheese” reference? Just to keep it all sociable, we’ll also be snacking on a selection of cheeses, grapes and crackers. Plan now to join the conversation—and watch the Vine for more *cheesy* puns!



Confirmation Class

Parents and youth,

If you are a youth entering 8th or 9th grade this fall we invite you to join our confirmation class.

We will meet with parents and students on Sunday, September 8th and confirmation will begin weekly on September 15th at 10:40 following the worship service. Call the church office if you plan to participate in confirmation: 402-475-6702.

MESSENGER VIA E-VINE

If you would be interested in receiving the Messenger once per month via email, please let us know by calling the Church Office at 402-475-6702 or email: andrea@westminsterlincoln.org.

Please consider helping our impact on the environment. Thank you!