



# THE MESSENGER

VOLUME 89, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2019



## Christmas Eve Services

will be at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

*Children will provide special music at the 5pm service. At 8pm, the bell choir and choir will be doing special music. The Nebraska Brass will provide special music at both services.*



## is for Christmas

Sunday, December 1,  
5pm-6:30 pm

We are looking for volunteers who would like to share their chili-making talents by making a pot of chili for the event. Attendees will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite chili!

“C” is for Christmas is quickly approaching, and we are also looking for food donations to accompany the Chili cookoff. This would be for: cornbread, cheese, crackers, baby carrots, and cookies.

Space is limited to share your special chili and compete for the *coveted* Silver Ladle Award! If you are interested in participating, please contact Sarah Baltensperger at [sarah.baltensperger@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.baltensperger@gmail.com).

## Christmas Cantata Sunday, Dec. 15th

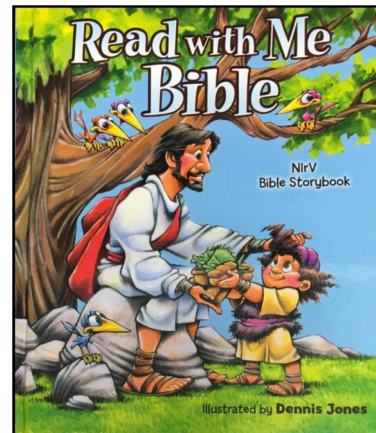
Westminster Choir and friends will be presenting a newly commissioned Christmas cantata this year entitled *O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is*. This piece was written by Dr. David Von Kampen, composition professor at UNL, and will be premiered by 15 choirs throughout the USA in the month of December. We are excited to present this new work for choir, soloists, piano, and strings on **Sunday, December 15th** during our 9:30am worship service.

## 47th ANNUAL HOLIDAY OF TREES

The Heritage League is holding their **47<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday of Trees** on **Thursday, Dec. 5 and Friday, Dec. 6 at Westminster Presbyterian Church**. The hours of the event are Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (On Friday at 6:30 the Raffle will be held and food service will close.) The admission price remains at \$1 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from The Heritage League members.



## Congratulations to the Kindergarteners who received their Bibles on Oct. 13, 2019!



### **The Giving (Angel) Tree Gifts Due Dec. 2nd**

This year the Giving Tree will contain tags for Home Instead and Salvation Army. These agencies have asked that we deliver the gifts to them no later than December 6th. (Your gift should come to the church. Outreach will deliver to the proper agency.) This will give them time to sort, fill in needed items, and get them to the proper recipients.

#### **What to do:**

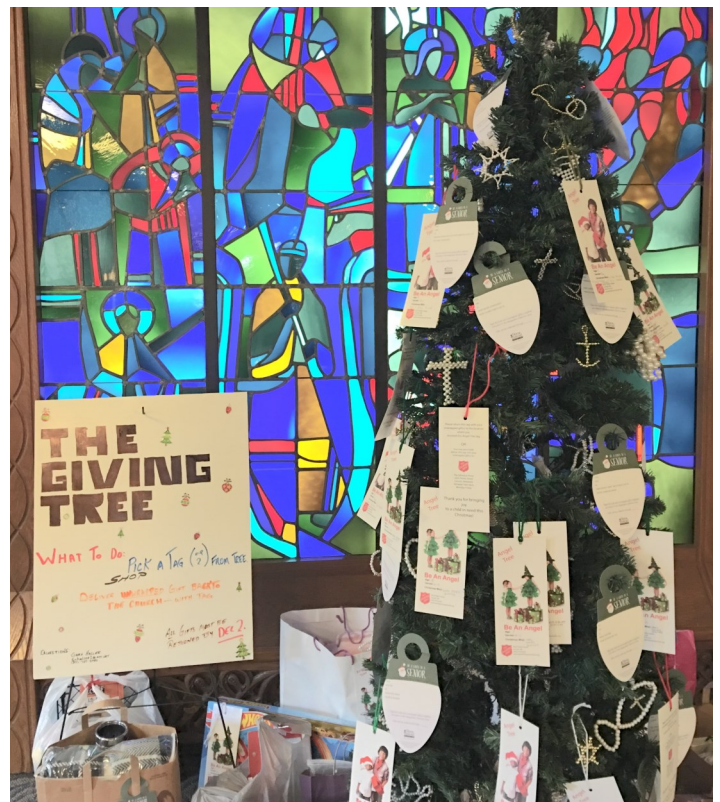
Pick a tag (or two) from the tree in the Garden Room. Shop. Deliver the unwrapped gift back to the church (with tag) **on or before 12/02.**

#### **What NOT to do:**

Please do not wrap the gift or provide wrapping paper to the church. Please do not take a tag if you can not provide a gift.

Call or email Gary Haller with any questions:  
817-757-2980 or [txhaller2@att.net](mailto:txhaller2@att.net)

**Thank you!!**



### **THANK YOU!**

*I just wanted to thank the church foundation for the Swanson scholarship. It will help me immensely throughout my college career! I am delighted to have received it!*

*Sincerely, Audrey Smith*



### **Knit, Sit and Prayer Ministry**

In 2019, 374 knitted pieces were made; they were dedicated on Nov. 24th and donated to the People's City Mission. All pieces are made from donated yarn. All are invited on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm to knit or crochet, or you can work from home and bring to the church.

Made by knitters: Cathy Hershberger, Dorothy Smiley, Diana Wild, Francy Scheele, Mary Finkner, Emily Killham, Kathy Phillip, Martha Von Sickel, and Linnea Fredrickson.

### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Nov. 17, 2019**

Elder Donna Wyatt presented a full slate of officers elected by the congregation on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

#### **Elders:**

Laurie Lofquist  
Kathy Rohwedder  
Margaret Sprude  
Gwen Thorpe  
Dan Wherry

#### **Deacons:**

Kelly Braswell-Burbach  
Sharon Cape  
Susie Hughes  
Jim Kinkennon  
Faye Moulton  
Kiann Ridgeway  
Joan Roberts  
Janice Rohwedder  
Lisa DeBuse  
Lavon McBride  
Julie Olson  
Carolyn Otte  
Sue Shamblin

### **Nominating Committee:**

Donna Wyatt  
Jim Kinkennon  
Sarah Baltensperger  
Pam Oliver  
Bob Rediger  
Margaret Sprude  
Cathy Hershberger  
Kathy Rohwedder  
Devon Nelson

Elder Bill Walstead presented the following who were elected to serve on the Foundation Board:

### **Foundation Board:**

Pat Leach  
Ron Wachter



### **Please Review Your Third Quarter Giving Statement**

Some data entry errors occurred throughout the year.

There were a few gifts that were deposited in the bank but not posted to member accounts, particularly in late July.

If you directed Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA to Westminster, those gifts should all be listed as nondeductible.

If you find an error, please call Carol at 402-475-6702 ext. 105.



# FAITH THROUGH THE GENERATIONS

## The White Family



Family at Jim's  
80th birthday

Family with  
Jim's antique  
pickup



Judy and Jim White are looking forward to 2020 and a family gathering in the summer to mark Judy's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and 60 years of marriage. (They celebrated Jim's milestone birthday last summer with a family outing to Green Mountain, North Carolina, and it's only fair that Judy gets the same celebratory treatment at a special place not yet chosen.)

Staples at Westminster since they moved to Lincoln in 1990, the Whites let little moss grow under their toes. Both retired in 1998, but the two are far from couch potatoes.

Both hail from western Nebraska, she from Bayard, he from Oshkosh. They met at Chadron State, where Judy got certified to teach school after two years, and Jim stayed on to get a biology degree. He also played offensive guard on the football team, which was undefeated in 1958 in their state college football league division. His teammates still get together for reunions, attended by their coach, who is well into his 90s!

"We have a soft spot in our hearts for Chadron State," confides Judy.

The pair moved to Lexington when Jim graduated, and he took on a full load of science classes as well as expected coaching duties for football, basketball and track. The year was 1961, and he earned \$3,900 for his efforts.

"We were poor as church mice," recalls Judy, who had quit teaching to have the first of their two daughters.

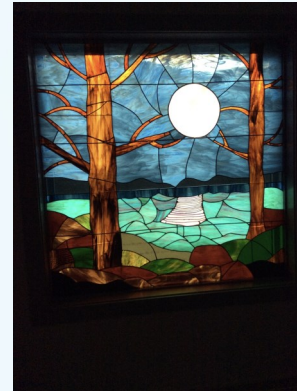
But the 29 years they spent in Lexington brought many new adventures. Judy earned bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education, and Jim went on to get advanced degrees in counseling and school psychology and became director of special education and school psychology. They were steadfast and active members of the First Presbyterian Church there.

With the move to Lincoln in 1990, Jim joined the team of school psychologists at Lincoln Public Schools, while Judy went on to teach fourth through sixth grades at Beattie Elementary.

In Atlanta  
with pastor  
granddaughter



Made for  
WPC Auction



Jim's hobby  
of stained glass

With retirement eight years later, they ventured into the antiques business and estate sales, but when the fun went out of it, they moved on. “We proved we could do it and decided it was too much work,” says Judy, who has no regrets about the years they spent scouring treasures of the past.

A testament to their taste remains evident in their home, which is filled with exquisite American pottery and Mission-style furnishings. You’ll also find Jim’s carpentry skills at work in several pieces of furniture, but especially a magnificent bed. Jim honed his skills building two houses from the ground up when he was in Lexington, and he has mastered the art. And then there’s his stained glass studio in the basement and proof of his skill in refashioning a triptych above a living room window to keep the afternoon sun from fading the furniture.

Oh, ask the two about their travels, and they’re quick to name Ireland, England Scotland, Germany and Australia among their exploits, plus driving to most of the continental states.

With daughters in Omaha and North Carolina, and four grown grandchildren, including a granddaughter who is a Presbyterian minister in Georgia, the Whites have plenty of reasons to be on the go.

But through it all, Westminster has been a focus and a mainstay. They’ve been on most every Westminster church committee, and Jim is serving his second term as a Westminster Session Elder. Judy taught Sunday School forever in Lexington. They are especially pleased with the Westminster Bible study classes that bring not only increased faith and learning but the closeness and support of friends.

Jim has served on the disaster response team and has been there from Mississippi to Oklahoma in the wake of hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding, plying his counseling skills as much as his carpentry. But his carpentry skills come in handy as the moderator of the building and grounds committee, charged among other things with keeping an eye on the church’s 14 different roofs. Again, he puts to work a carry-over skill from the past: “When you’re a counselor and a psychologist, it’s all about problem-solving.”

As for Judy, she says the church has just been a big part of their lives. “If we skip church, we don’t feel like we’ve gotten the week started right.”

*Article by Patty Beutler  
Photos courtesy of the family*



# SUNDAY ADULT EDUCATION INVITES YOU

## **Bible Class \* Parlor 10:45 a.m.**

Advent, a time of preparation and expectant waiting for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. The word Advent means coming and the Sunday Bible Class will broaden its study during Advent to include prophetic texts from Isaiah as well as those from Matthew and Luke which speak of the coming of the Savior. Join the discussion any Sunday in the Parlor at 10:45.

- Dec. 1** Matthew 24:36-44; Isaiah 2:1-5  
**Dec. 8** Matthew 3:1-12; Isaiah 11:1-10  
**Dec. 15** Matthew 11:2-11; Luke 1:46b-55; Isaiah 35:1-10  
**Dec. 22** Matthew 1:18-25; Isaiah 7:10-16  
**Dec. 29** (no meeting)

## **Adult Forum \* Lounge 10:45 a.m.**

"Images From Isaiah for Advent" taught by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn (with discussion suggestions from Max Lucado's *Because of Bethlehem*)

- December 1** "A Hope for Peace"  
**December 8** "A Promise of Justice"  
**December 15** "Encouragement in the Desert"  
**December 22** "A Promise of Presence"  
**December 29** (no meeting)

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## *Year End Generosity*

December 2019

Dear Westminster Friends,

As we move into the special season of Advent and will soon experience the spirit of Christmas gift giving, we want to express a hearty and sincere "Thank You!" to every family that has been able to be generous givers to Westminster this year.

While your giving is always confidential and known only to the church office, we as a committee can say with certainty that your financial support has made a powerful impact. Your gifts allow us to strengthen what we are today and to be able to dream about the exciting future for Westminster.

In a powerful and timely message, our own Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn reminded us last month from the pulpit that, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to be a joyful conduit of generosity... and not simply a collector of it. When we regularly and intentionally give away a portion of the blessings we have already received... we do more than support the ministry of Westminster. We also are able to put into action a Christ-minded spirit out in the community to care for those less fortunate and in need... in our neighborhood, in Lincoln, across our state, and even across the globe.

Christmas Eve will be here in just a few weeks and as you make your shopping and to-do lists for the holidays, please be sure to keep these three stewardship tasks in mind as well...

**Send in your 2020 Giving Commitment pledge card**

**Strive to meet your 2019 Pledge commitment so we finish the year strong**

**Consider Westminster in your year-end giving opportunities**

On behalf of the entire leadership team of elders as well as the pastors and staff of Westminster, we cannot say "Thank You!" enough. Your generosity this year is truly inspirational. We wish you the blessings of the season and we thank you for being a part of this special faith community and for empowering... The Westminster Difference.

*The WPC Stewardship & Finance Ministry*



Parent's Night Out (PNO) will be taking a break for the holidays.

There will be **no** PNO on the following dates:

November 27, December 18, December 25, January 1

**The program will resume on January 8.**

*Blessed Holidays from the PNO staff!*

## **Presbyterian Women—Circle 4**

**Monday, Dec. 2nd, 6pm**

Green Gateau, 330 South 10th Street

### **It's "Save Your Styrofoam" Time!**

By popular demand, Westminster will again be collecting your unwanted Styrofoam packaging —think holidays!

Here's what to do-

Save any EPS (Styrofoam) packing material or products marked #6.

Sorry, no disposable food containers or packing peanuts

Remove any tape, loose parts, etc.

Break anything too large to manage

Bring it to church starting the Sunday after Christmas.

### **And new this year: Recycle your broken tree lights!**

Tree lights, extension cords, and other wiring are all welcome.

Bring them to the church Sunday, December 1 through Sunday, January 12.

We'll deliver them to Eastridge School for their annual drive.



A fun time was had by all at Spooktacular on Oct. 30th!

### **Faith & Cancer—Dec. 17 at 7 PM in the 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. Email is:

bgsheffield@gmail.com.

### **PRAIRIE READERS**

**Wednesday, December 18, 1:00 p.m.**

Lounge

Christmas film and goodies

Contact: Faye Moulton at fgmoulton@gmail.com.

### **History Buffs Fall Schedule**

**9AM in the Lounge**

**Sat. Dec.14** Slavery in Washington D.C.

from 1820—Civil War Dr. Will Thomas (UNL)

Questions? Contact: Bruce Sheffield at bgsheffield@gmail.com

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

**First Tuesdays** of the month. Location varies. Gathering at 11:30a.m.

**Tues., Dec. 3:**

location is Napoli's, 5571 S. 48th St., Lincoln, 68516

Questions? Contact Ed Plander. Email is: plandere@prodigy.net.

### **LADIES' NIGHT OUT**

Ladies of all ages join in fellowship and to experience new restaurants throughout Lincoln. Bring a friend, sister, mother, daughter and feel free to drop-in at your leisure. Contact Robyn Ubele at (937) 935-6858 or robynu2@hotmail.com if you would like to be added to our monthly E-vite, or, if you have questions. RSVPs are appreciated to insure ample seating. Join us between 5-7pm.

**Tuesday, Dec. 17th** Billy's; \$10 per person, plus the cost of the drink(s), tip and tax. Assortment of heavy appetizers/family style.

### **SAUSAGE, EGGS, AND SCRIPTURE**

On Sat., **Dec. 21st**, Men of Westminster are invited to a breakfast Bible study. We meet on the third Sat. of each month in the private dining room of Scooter's, (2901 S. 84th) just south of 84<sup>th</sup> and Van Dorn, at **8a.m.** Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn leads the study, which concludes promptly at 9a.m. December's Scripture is beginning Chapter 7 of Mark. For more info., call Parish Associate Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

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2110 Sheridan Blvd.  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402.475.6702  
westminsterlincoln.org

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## 2019 Poinsettia Order Form

*(please cut out and return to the church)*

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.: Joanne**  
**2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE 68502**

Cost of each poinsettia is **\$15**. Please make checks payable to Westminster and write **POINTSETTIA** on the memo line. Order must be received by **Dec. 12th** 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.**

