

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION

FOR YEAR 2019

The Spring Stated
Meeting of the
Congregation will be
Sunday, February 23.
Immediately following
worship.



WORSHIP WITH US
SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

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THE MESSENGER



Looking Back at 2019

PASTORS ANNUAL REPORT

Westminster Presbyterian Church is anticipating a very exciting 2020 with the call of a pastor; full board of elders and deacons to serve; a balanced budget; preschools new leadership and direction; volunteers filling many rolls; and a strong staff team to do the ministry.

As we look back at 2019, we see a year of many challenges and changes and now face a year of hope for the future.

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at 2019, we see a
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Pastor's Annual Report

Continuation:

Highlighting the past year is the great number of volunteers stepping up to serve in various capacities. Carol Bishop has stepped up as business manager for much of the year and full time the past three months as a volunteer. Sandi Larson volunteered as Children's Ministry Director part time to cover Sunday Faith Village and Parent's Night Out since August. Steve Larson has taken over the maintenance responsibilities as a volunteer in the absence of a full time grounds/maintenance person. Steve replaced Jim White who served as Building and Grounds moderator and hands on volunteer caring for the building and grounds. Also, there are a number of men and women who cover the front desk, update the data bank, register attendance, custodial work, mailings, clean the sanctuary and in other areas. The weekly total number of volunteer hours makes a big difference in the personnel budget expenses. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Part of the work of session this past year was to place a number of members on the inactive list. These are people who have not participated in worship for over two years and we were unable to contact. This means the total active membership of Westminster is 581 strong. The average worship attendance is over 210 weekly, which is about average for a church this size. Today many families are committed and active, but do not attend weekly. Each week the congregation may look different because it is not the same 210 people attending. We have received 30 new members in the past two months, which is a positive indication that Westminster is vital and welcoming.

Financially, the church is in the black starting the new year after coming off a strong stewardship campaign and a faithful response from the congregation. This means less dependence on the Foundation for financial support of the general fund. This is a strong foundation going forward in 2020.

I will have been your interim pastor for 21 months as I conclude my ministry here on March 31. It has been a great blessing for Wes and me. It is a joy for both of us to walk with this wonderful family of faith and watch you welcome the new and different and offer unconditional support. Thanks you for being the warm, kind, thoughtful congregation I will always cherish in my heart. It has been a great privilege to be your interim.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Val Putnam, Interim

*Westminster
remains strong in
music ministry,
adult education,
and preschool
education.*

*We have an active
Presbyterian
Women's ministry.*



We have received 30 new members in the past two months. We warmly welcome all of you!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

Committee Members: Bill Walstad (co-moderator, finance), Allen Wachter (co-moderator, stewardship), Mitch Schainost, Brian Lammers, Rev. Val Putnam (staff representative).

Overview

As a church in transition, the year was full of activity for this committee. The top priorities were focused on continuing the “right-sizing” work that began in 2018 and is touching all aspects of the church. Key for this committee is to establish the structures necessary to better expenses to income and lay a foundation for a healthy financial future for Westminster and its next pastor. To do so, a number of initiatives began in 2019 and a summary of key aspects are noted below.

Key Initiatives

- *Combined the Budget & Finance Committee and the Stewardship Ministry* into one joint committee.
- *Established the Financial Leadership Council* task force to improve communication, coordination, financial goal setting, and understanding of WPC’s fiscal situation across key committees. Walstad, Wachter, Schainost, Lammers, Putnam plus Jim White (Buildings & Grounds), H. Seward (Foundation), Tim Gergen (Grants), and Alisha Stokes were the active members of this task force.
- *Established a new Budget Process* led under Walstad’s leadership provide more accurate and effective tracking of budget vs actual as well as future forecasting.
- *Outsourced to HBE Accounting* all key accounting duties of WPC and moved the church staffing of the business office duties to a part time position. HBE offers this service and will provide the church with high-quality services and financial statements regularly.
- *Separated Duties* – Through outsourcing to HBE, the church now has best-practice process that allows full separation of duties so that no one person was in control of all income, payment, and financial records.
- *Audit & Review Policy* – The Session affirmed a commitment to conduct scheduled and accurate annual audits or reviews of financial records. Grafton & Associates was retained for this work.
- *Stewardship Conference* – Wachter and Pastor Val attended the 2019 Stewardship Kaleidoscope convention in October. Both returned with a wealth of ideas and a better understanding of giving trends both within the denomination as well as nationally overall.
- *Conducted the 2019 Per Capita Campaign* that generated a strong response in dedicated giving toward the church’s financial “dues” commitment to Homestead Presbyterian.
- *Conducted the 2020 Stewardship Campaign* – Using “The Power of Ten” as its inspirational message. To date, 167 church families have made \$541,600 in pledge commitments toward the general budget and \$8,350 in pledges toward the 2020 per capita dues for Westminster.

2019 Year-End Update

In conjunction with the Financial Leadership Council, our committee worked with all church committees and ministries to look for cost-saving opportunities in all areas. Staffing was restructured. Volunteers were recruited to help. Contracts and commitments were reviewed and updated. Expenses were trimmed wherever possible. And members were encouraged to complete pledge commitments and perhaps give beyond to help strengthen the church’s financial standing for 2019. So far the response from the congregation has been very strong...wonderful, wonderful news!

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Stewardship & Finance Committee Report, Continuation:

2020 Look-Ahead

In 2020, we expect the church to realize the full impact of the restructuring and streamlining efforts of the past year. Assuming that members continue to meet their generous pledge obligations for the year, we have the opportunity to be in a much stronger financial position overall. This should allow us the potential to reduce the general budget support received from the Foundation in 2019. And most importantly it sets Westminster in a strong financial position for our next pastor to lead.

Note: Under our new financial management system, the final 2019 budget statement of WPC revenues and expenses are still being prepared HBE. Also, a 2020 budget is being prepared for discussion and approval by Session at its January 24-25 retreat. That financial information will be reported in a separate report (e-Vine or Messenger) to WPC members at a later date.

Audit Report by Grafton and Associates 2018

Grafton & Associates, CPAs, conducted an audit of accounts for Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Westminster Presbyterian Foundation for 2018.

Some key points for each audit are as follows:

--for the Church -- bank reconciliations for the year ended 2018 were randomly selected for review. Also 75 disbursements of over \$500 and 25 disbursements of under \$500 were rigorously analyzed. In addition the 2018 payroll account was reviewed along with the adequacy of internal bookkeeping controls. The conclusion was "all disbursements reviewed were valid for the business purposes of the Church and properly recorded." One procedural correction on the payroll account was noted when it was discovered that seven employees did not have the most up-to-date salaries in the employee files. Grafton recommends updating these files as soon as salary amounts change.

--For the Foundation -- While some final documentation has yet to be done, Grafton &

Associates found that a complete set of financial statements for 2018 were present which was an improvement from 2017. They found that all asset values were appropriately stated as through the testing dates. Grafton found that the practice through 2018 of depositing Foundation receipts in the Church's general account to be transferred later to the Foundation to be inadequate and commended the Foundation for changes beginning in 2019 of separate checking account deposits; however Grafton also acknowledges that for 2018, there was no evidence that any funds were mistakenly retained in the Church's general fund. The institution of separate internal controls in 2019 should alleviate any concerns about that in the future.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began meeting in August of 2019. The members are Andrew Finkner, Michael Gregg, Steve Hughes, Jim Kinkennon, Sandi Larson, Deb Schorr, Alisha Stokes, Allen Wachter, Sarah Baltensperger, & Joyce Douglas, Moderator.

We immediately began to develop our Ministry Information Form (MIF) which was approved by the Homestead Presbytery in mid-September. The MIF details the strengths of the church and our expectations of the skills we want in our Head of Staff. This document was submitted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) which is a Presbyterian online matching service for churches who are looking for staff and individuals looking for a new position.

We have met weekly except for Halloween and Christmas for approximately two hours each night. To be prepared for these meetings, each person is also dedicating many additional hours at home to review the Pastor Information Forms (PIF) we have received. We have reviewed almost 100 PIFs from 26 states as well as those nearby. Many pastors state they want to be in a large metropolitan area or lead an international congregation. These individuals are easy to move aside but they must be read, evaluated and rated. We have advertised in a Presbyterian magazine and several social media sites. We have also received about a dozen self-referrals to consider. This means a pastor has read our Ministry Information Form on the CLC or elsewhere and is interested in us. Our MIF has evolved from August to December in order to reach a larger pool of candidates. We reach out to candidates as we identify those who rank at the

top of our list and will begin to interview ones in January who indicate they are interested in us.

Our committee works extremely well together. Even with our different perspectives, we usually are in close agreement as to who we feel is a fit for Westminster and who isn't. We want a new Head of Staff as soon as possible but we want the right person. We are looking for the person who reflects who Westminster is and where we want to go in the future as a congregation.

Our meetings in August began with flip-charts and we ended December with spreadsheets. This basic change is indicative of our "full speed ahead mindset". We will keep everyone posted.

Respectfully submitted by

Joyce Douglas, PNC
Moderator

Building and Grounds

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

Another year has come and gone for the 2019 Building and Grounds Committee.

What a busy productive year. Let's thank elders Jason Woita and Mark Davis, Pastor Val Putnam, and members Steve Larson, Jessica Sandmeier, Robert Rediger, Ken Govaerts, John Paul Wirrick and moderator, Jim White. This group of people was a working Committee which painted, cleaned, landscaped and supervised numerous projects.



Major projects completed during 2019 included repairing three main flat roofs on different areas of the church. Concrete barriers were installed north of the preschool playground. A major rebuilding of the concrete steps was done to the west side of the building and reinstalling

the original iron hand rails. Plaster was repaired in the narthex of the sanctuary and the area was repainted by Building and Grounds Committee. LED bulbs were placed in the sanctuary fixtures. Most importantly the Building and Grounds Committee successfully solved the buried tanks mystery on Westminster's property. 25 years ago two fuel tanks were decommissioned by filling them with sand. The State of Nebraska

Department of Environmental Control notified us the Church was required to retest the soil for petroleum residues. A test well was drilled and no petroleum residue was discovered. The



state of Nebraska agreed to end further testing. Future projects discussed by Building and Grounds Committee include: redecorating the garden room, remodeling the ladies restroom next to the lounge, assisting the grant committee in obtaining funds to restore the stained glass and single pane windows of the church, and moving forward on changing to LEDs in all areas of the church.

Most of all the 2019 Building and Grounds Committee has indeed left this place better than we found it.

Jim White, Moderator of Building and Grounds Committee



Church Life Ministry

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

Staff: Jimmy Shelbourn | Moderator: Gwen Hlava | Recorder: Revolving
Members: Judy Buss, Dorrie Gage, Rita Kinkennon, Doug Karsting

Cook 'n Carry is a Westminster outreach program that operates under Church Life Ministry. This program offers meals to church members at times of need ie: a birth or death in a family, an illness, a surgery, or an accident. Thirty-eight volunteers were on our volunteer list in 2019. Twenty-six meals were delivered. Sixteen volunteers stepped to make/deliver those meals. Eight volunteers prepared more than one meal.

In preparation to call a new pastor, Church Ministries were re-organized in order to gain continuity and efficiency. The combination of Member Care, New Member and Life Groups became Church Life Ministry. The first order of business was to meld the policy and procedure documents from these three Ministries and create a new document for Church Life incorporating responsibilities from all three documents that now become the mission of Church Life. This was no easy task. Judy Buss spearheaded the rewrite and the new document now reflects the true essence of Church Life.

Church Life Ministry planned an East Brunch in the Garden Room before and after worship service. Members and friends enjoyed conversation fruit, apple juice and a variety of mini muffins.

Church Life Ministry planned a Women's Retreat held at Lied Lodge in Nebraska City in July. Approximately 50 women of Westminster attended the retreat.

Under the leadership of Susie Hughes and Glenna Haller activities were planned around the theme "Reflect, Restore and Rejoice."

Church Life Ministry prepared a brochure of all Life Groups. A synopsis of activities, meeting times, leader contact information were included. This brochure is now given to all new members making it easier to become engaged in the church and meet new people.

A major focus of Church Life Ministry is to welcome new members into the life of the Church. From new member interest sheets, every effort will be made to link members' interests to a Life Group. By participating with others with similar interests, new members can become a more engaged and vital part of our church. Engagement will be monitored by contacting new members (3 months out) to determine their level of involvement as well as communicating with their deacon.

Once again a Christmas card was designed and sent to elderly members of Westminster who are not able to attend. Approximately 100 cards were sent from Church Life Ministry with Jimmy and Val's signatures. The members receiving the cards are the stronghold of our Church and we always want them to feel they are a valuable part of Westminster.

Church Life Ministry Report, Continuation.

The year ended with “C” is for Christmas and we were blessed with Jean Patoka at the piano. Church Life Ministry once again placed second in the chili cookoff. Congratulations Jimmy Shelbourn.

The Ministry has co-opted two new members for 2020: Allison Mollenkamp and Kathy Phillip. These two individuals are welcome additions and will make the work of Church Life even more enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted, Gwen Hlava,
Moderator



A Very Warm Welcome to WESTMINSTER'S 30 New Members. We Are Glad You're Here!!

2019

Leslie Miner
Kraig & Laurie Lofquist
Bailey Hooper & Caleb Perkins
Adwoa Darkwa
Zack & Jenna Adamson
Ellie Hostetler & Thomas Havlat
John Jeffers
Allison Mollenkamp
Blaine & Margaret Pass
Shirley & Bob Wiggins

January 2020

Mattie McIntosh & Henry Sipp
William & Olivia Noundou
Victoire Noundou
Rosalie Noundou
Jay & Pam Wealand
Kyle Wealand
Gary & Cosette Greer
Jenna & Barrett Ruud
Nate Storbeck & Lisa Studnicka
Brett Woods & Ellen Jorgenson

Worship and Music Ministry

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

2019 was my third year as a member of the Worship and Music Ministry and my second year as moderator. It has been said that Worship and Music is one of the easier assignments for a new session member. If so, this is only because many hands make light work. We plan and prepare for every celebration of Holy Communion and we clean up afterwards. We owe a special thanks to Robyn Uebele for recognizing the need for a communion facilitator and coordinating all those who serve communion. Thanks also to our Chancel Guild, Mike and Mary Tomlinson, who work through every pew in the sanctuary and chapel, straightening

hymn books, offering envelopes, and registration folders.

Our group also decorates the church for Easter and Christmas services. The Easter Lily cross has been a tradition for longer that anyone can remember. If you remember when it started or who built the cross, feel free to correct me. The Christmas trees, wreaths, and Poinsettias give a festive look to the entire building.

We also worked to get better hearing assistance in the sanctuary. A plan is in place to install a hearing loop in the floor that will transmit to modern hearing aides.



This plan awaits funding but will happen. Long range plans are in effect to refurbish the pipe organ console, along with various repairs and improvements.

Many thanks to those not already mentioned: David and Kathy Anderson, Linda Burchard, April Douglas, Michael and Freda Gregg, Cyndy Maddux, Caroline Schainost, and Diana Wild. Thanks for your faithful and capable service to the congregation.

Jim Kinkennon,
Moderator



Adult Education

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

Adult Education has two streams on Sunday mornings. Both meet after the 9:30 worship-
The Bible class in the Parlor, and the Forum in the Lounge.

Bible Class

2019 saw the Bible Class transition from using materials provided by the denomination to a lectionary based study based on texts being used during worship. The class has 17 participants with an average attendance of ten.

Rev. Ellen Davis facilitates discussion with assistance of other class members. The Bible Class will continue the above format during 2020.

Forum

The Adult Forum tries to rotate through monthly themes that invigorate discipleship - Bible study, church history, theology, mission. Highlights of 2019 include Community Conversations presentations, "The Spirit in Public Art", Lenten and Advent Bible

studies by Pastor Jimmy, The Church Fathers and Wisdom Literature, the sacred in poetry presented by Roy Scheele. Depending on the topic, attendance varies from twenty to forty-five.

Members of the Ministry have been Andrew Finkner, Dennis Pentz, Dal Ronneau, Sandi Larson, Tom Pappas and Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn.

Submitted by
Tom Pappas, moderator

Administration and Planning

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

Committee members:

Moderator Karen Janovy and Elder Emily Killham; co-opted members Marybell Avery, Joyce Douglas, Dan Hoffman, Margaret Sprude, and Allen Wachter; and Pastor Val, staff representative.

After the successful January Session Retreat coordinated by A & P, the Committee established the following goals for 2019, although some were suspended out of necessity during this period of transition in the life of WPC: Continuing to provide leadership and

- Revise long-term strategic planning process
- Facilitate committee/ministry work
- Review/revise committee/ministry operating procedures
- Update church self-study in preparation for hiring full time AP
- Marketing Plan
- Revise Bylaws
- Aggregate and present 2020 goals at the 2020 Session Retreat

To that end, we met monthly, to facilitate and oversee the revision of Committee and Ministry operating procedures. Those Ministries revised were Westminster Children & Youth (WCY), Church Life Ministry, and Stewardship & Finance. Remaining the same were Adult Education, Outreach, Worship & Music; and Committees A & P, Building & Grounds, and Personnel.

Administration and Planning Report, Continuation:

participating in the process for hiring a new Pastor/Head of Staff consumed most of our planning. We oversaw formation of a sub-committee of the MIF (Pillars Task Force) to rebrand the WPC marketing plan, and again reviewed the WPC Bylaws. Our members assumed additional responsibility and leadership roles in these critical areas of our church mission which provided tremendous value.

Oversight of the Westminster Preschool via the Preschool Advisory Committee also consumed much thought and discussion, particularly with reference to new financial procedures. This affiliate Committee reports directly to Session through the WCY Ministry. A Task Force to

look into the possible playground improvement project was approved with Jason Woita, chair; Suzanne Schneider and Liz Alfaro from the Preschool; Rob Otte, former Session Moderator; and Dr. Jessica Sandmeier.

Ongoing issues that deserve attention will be addressed at the annual 2020 Session Retreat, currently being planned by our Committee. Based on positive evaluations from the 2019 Retreat, it will again be held in Lincoln rather than Nebraska City. Profound gratitude is hereby expressed to each member of this Committee for exceptional commitment and effort in responding to the needs of this church community.

Karen Janovy, Moderator

Nominating Committee

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

We have had a busy 2019.

The Nominating Committee met several times over the first six months and after much thought and prayer and by the grace of God presented a great and diverse group of members representing Westminster to

I serve as our Pastor Nominating Committee. The PNC slate was elected and is currently working diligently to discern who will be called to be our next pastor.

In addition, during the second half of 2019, we performed our yearly task of discerning those called to serve (Elders and Deacons; Foundation Board members) to be presented to the congregation for election as leaders for 2020. Those presented have been elected and are currently going through the process of being ordained and/or installed.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wyatt, Elder
Pastor Nominating Committee
Moderator

Members:

Donna Wyatt
Jim Kinkennon
Sarah Baltensperger
Pam Oliver

WPC Preschool Advisory Committee

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019

Beginning its second year, the committee revised its purpose as follows:

Westminster Preschool Advisory Committee is an 'Affiliated Group' of the WCY Committee. Members: Two Past or Present Preschool parents – one of whom is a WPC member;

Two WPC members – one of whom is currently on Session as Moderator of the WCY Committee; and the Pastor and Preschool Director - ex-officio

Purposes:

- To serve as problem-solvers and advisors to the Preschool staff.
- To advocate for the Preschool to represent its needs and questions.
- To provide a communication link among the Preschool staff, WPC staff, WPC Session, and Preschool families.

Susan Mulvaney completed her term in June when her youngest son graduated from Preschool. Liz Alfaro subsequently assumed that position on the committee.

Monthly meetings addressed budget, personnel and maintenance issues. New Financial Procedures were established and set in motion. A Task Force for the possible playground improvement project chaired by Jason Woita and members Suzanne Schneider and Liz Alfaro from the Preschool, Rob Otte, former Session Moderator, and Dr. Jessica Sandmeier, began deliberating in November and will continue into the spring.

The resignation of the director to take a new position necessitated her replacement in early January. Westminster has hired a new Preschool director, Rachel Hinze.



Rachel was promoted to Director beginning January 1, 2020. Rachel started as a teacher and assistant director with Westminster Preschool in the fall of 2016. She comes with great qualifications and

enthusiasm to lead the preschool into the future.

The PAC will proceed with advocating for this critically important component of our church community. Grateful appreciation for unstinting dedication and tireless commitment to this important committee goes to Liz Alfaro, Dan Hoffman, Susan Mulvaney, Emily Shelstadt, Suzanne Schneider and Pastor Val.

Thankfully, Karen Janovy,
Moderator

Westminster Children & Youth Committee

COMMITTEE REPORT 2019 & REFLECTIONS

Merging the previous Youth and Young Adults (YAYA), Children and Family, and a representative from the Preschool Advisory Committee into one committee was a change in 2019. As determined in the session meeting, the new committee would have the same number of members, the same budget and the same amount of work as previous years. Adjustments have been made to coordinate the impact of changing the time of Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.

Children and Youth Committee experienced several other changes with the hiring and subsequent resignations of two part-time youth directors. Fortunately, Sandy Larson agreed to volunteer as interim director this year. Through the dedication and passion of Sandy and many volunteers, the Kindergarten of Eden and Faith Village Sunday school programs and new Parent's Night Out Wednesdays have

successfully continued and grown.

Devon Nelson and Andrew Finkner lead and support the junior high and high school youth Sunday school and youth group meetings, as well as the children's activities and events. The youth volunteers have made a big difference in the committee's ability to support the activities listed below.

Here are just a few of the events held this year:

Feb. 1 – Family Fun Nite (movie and pizza)

Apr. 14 - Easter Egg Hunt, cake walk and breakfast

May 19 – Confirmation and Graduation Sunday (confirmands and family's breakfast, graduates reception)

Jun 16 – 17 – Youth Mission Trip to Leadville Colorado

Aug 11 – Blessing of the Backpacks

Sep 8 – Genesis Sunday – Sundays are for being WILD (W = Worship, I = Invitational, L = Loving, D = Discipleship). Craft projects, Kona Ice, Zoo Animals, Face Painting, Bounce House, photo booth and water balloons.

Sep 13 – Youth volunteer at the Gathering Place

Sep 15 – New confirmation class began with Rob Baltensperger leading and Val Putnam teaching.

Oct 13 – Provided refreshments for the Preschool Art Show

Oct 30 – Spooktacular – (combined with Parent's Night Out) Music and games, Art project, spooky meal, Flashlight Parade and treats, Monster Mash Dance Party.

Dec 1 – C is for Christmas – Chili contest, and all foods that begin with the letter “c”, crafts for children

Dec 6 – Youth volunteer at Matt Talbot

Westminster Adult Education

All are welcome to join at anytime & always welcome to bring a friend.

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS | February 2020

Join us in the church Parlor at 10:45 AM

During the month of February, we will explore portions of the Sermon on the Mount and conclude our study on Transfiguration Sunday with the account of that event in Matthew's Gospel. Join us any Sunday for discussion of the Sunday's sermon and exploration of the texts involved.

February 2 | Matthew 5:1-12

February 9 | Matthew 5:13-20

February 16 | Matthew 5:21-37

February 23 | Matthew 17:1-9

SUNDAY ADULT FORUM | February 2020

"Sermon on the Mount" led by Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn

Join us in the church Lounge at 10:45 AM

February 2 | Prayer, Fasting & Charity

February 9 | What's really valuable?

February 16 | Judging and Asking

February 23 | Narrow Doors and Fruit Trees

The Spring Stated Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, February 23rd, immediately following worship. This meeting will receive the 2020 Budget; audited financial reports; and committee reports.

Volunteer Opportunity: Each week the Vine reports who has volunteered their time for various tasks in our church. Many on the list are those who take turns covering the church reception desk. Right now we are looking for volunteers to regularly cover the front desk on Friday afternoons. Duties are answering the phone and sorting the mail. If you are interested, please contact Susie Hughes at skh@eskays.com or call her at 402-440-9165.

For prayer requests, concerns and praises, please send email to: prayer@westminsterlincoln.org.

Requests will be forwarded to the Prayer Ministry Group on a weekly basis, or more often if needed. If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Ministry Group, please email your name, phone number and your email address to: prayer@westminsterlincoln.org.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN AT ANYTIME & ALWAYS WELCOME TO BRING A FRIEND

Green@Heart! | Please bring the last of your Styrofoam packing material and strings of holiday lights to the front desk area no later than Sunday, February 2.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION | for the 2020-2021 school year at Westminster Preschool is currently underway for families of current students. Registration will open for everyone during our Open House on February 4, 2020 from 6-7pm. Please contact Rachel Hinze with any questions at 402-475-6702 or at rachelh@westminsterlincoln.org.

LUNCH BUNCH | Feb. 4th at 11:30 AM. We will be meeting at Hacienda Real, 3130 Pine Lake Rd.

HISTORY BUFFS | On Saturday, February 8th at 9AM in the Church lounge, Dr. Brandi Hagemann, Associate Professor of History at Doane University will discuss the Dawes Act of 1887 that was the Allotment of land to the heads of Indian families on the reservations. This in particular had a profound effect upon the Omahas.

LADIES' NIGHT OUT | Tuesday, February 11th 5-7 PM at Billy's. There is an increase in price for 2020. **\$12.00/per person** for assortment of family-style heavy appetizers, in addition to the drink cost and tip.

SAUSAGE, EGGS & SCRIPTURE | Saturday, Feb. 15 | Scooter's | 8 AM

Men of Westminster are invited to a breakfast Bible Study on the third Saturday of each month. We meet in a private dining room of Scooter's located at 2910 S. 84th Street. Pastor Shelbourn leads the study which concludes promptly at 9 AM.

FAITH & CANCER | Tuesday, February 18 | Parlor | 7 PM No matter where you are in your journey, this group is where cancer survivors can come together for fellowship, prayer and study.

PRAIRIE READERS | Wednesday, February 19, Westminster Parlor, 1 PM

February - "*The Two-Family House*", Lynda Cohen Loigman. Facilitator Diana Wild.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT | This is an opportunity for children to enjoy one another as they learn about Jesus. Parents 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, 5 - 7 PM.

KNIT & SIT | Church Library | Wednesdays | 6:30 PM We warmly welcome you to come to knit, crochet or other hand work, or just sit and enjoy the fellowship. We can also help you learn to knit and we have some supplies to share. We meet year round. Come when you can.



2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.475.6702
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ASH WEDNESDAY Worship Service

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our journey to Easter as we walk with Jesus through the final weeks of his ministry. This day we remember our own humanity and our need for God through the imposition of ashes made from the palm fronds of last year's Palm Sunday.

Our Ash Wednesday worship service will be at **7:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. This deeply spiritual service will help prepare our hearts for the season of Lent.

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.

Scholarship Application Deadline is March 31, 2020.

*All information for **The Messenger** is due to Tracy Hoffman at tracy@westminsterlincoln.org by the 18th of each month. All announcements for **The Vine** are due to Joanne Gabriel at joanne@westminsterlincoln.org by 5 pm on Tuesday of each week.*