

January
2021



Green@Heart
Recycling Projects



**WORSHIP ONLINE
WITH US
ON SUNDAYS**



**THE CHURCH BUILDING
AND OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON JAN 1 & 18
FOR THE HOLIDAYS.**

THE MESSENGER



2021... 2021! 2021 is HERE!

Westminster Family,

The new year of 2021 is one I feel we have all been looking forward to after a strange 2020 that left many of us feeling more isolated and alone than we have in previous years. Still, as we ring in a year with much hope due to vaccines and an eventual safe return to the communities we miss, I want to challenge our church family. I want us to identify one thing we are grateful for from this past year that we can summarize in 20 words or less.

I'd love for us to share those moments and examples of gratitude with our church family, so please feel free to email them to me at chris@westminsterlincoln.org. We may share those as part of our February Messenger and in some spaces in worship, such as a sermon, Moment of Gratitude, or Prayers of the People.

If you're feeling hesitant about sharing, I'll start us off here in the Messenger. I am grateful for being called to serve a wonderful, dedicated, and deeply faithful church family at Westminster. See, pretty simple and in 18 words, too!

As we look ahead to 2021 at Westminster, let us look forward with hope! As Paul shared with the church in Rome, "... hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:5) This encouraging word comes from a passage that describe our justification in Christ that leads to growth — particularly through difficult times — all because of the grace of God and peace of Christ we have received. May these words be encouraging to us as we look ahead with hope, because we have a lot to look forward to in our church family!

I am hopeful because of plans that are being discussed among our committees as we ordain and install new elders and deacons on January 17. I am excited for continuing efforts to care for our neighbors and share Christ's love through our food pantry, while we have engaged in new ministries of care including our "Quarantine Food Packing" partnership with Contemplate Lincoln. I am enthusiastic because we are on a great track to hire a new Director for our ministries to children and youth. And, I am grateful as Rachel Hinze and our preschool staff have innovated through a pandemic and continue to provide one of the best preschool educational opportunities in our city (see Rachel's update on the next page for more info!).

Friends, let us find spaces for gratitude in the year that is behind us and let us dare to look forward in hope. New Year blessings and peace to our church family!

With Hope in Christ,
Pastor Chris

Annual committee reports are due to Tracy by January 15, in order to be included in the February Annual Report Messenger. If you have any photo jpegs of your committee events, please include them in your email to Tracy at tracy@westminsterlincoln.org.



westminster preschool

End of the year reflections are always a joy! There are many words to describe the year 2020, but as a school we are focusing on a few. Joyful. Kind. Generous. Simple. Grateful. Hopeful. Creative. Together. Growth.

The Christmas season brought the generous gifts of many, and allowed us the opportunity to serve through giving as well.

Our friends at Lancaster Rehabilitation Center received weekly “mail” deliveries from both the preschool and pre-k class, along with care packages for the hardworking staff. The preschool families extended the giving spirit to home, where many chose items for the residents from our caring tree. An overwhelming donation of blankets, lotions, décor, throw pillows and other self care items were delivered for the residents on the Friday before Christmas!

Some friends from our STEAM class were commissioned by Miss Joanne to create some decorations for the bags for Meals on Wheels. They went right to work and used their creative best to design some beautiful artwork!

For several years, wonderful friends to the preschool, the Winter Family, have donated large amounts of Beanie Babies. This year, they went over and above! They gifted us with so many that every child was able to receive a reading buddy as a portion of their Christmas gift, as well as many others in our community. Additionally, every ZooPhonic friend in both classrooms has a correlating beanie baby! And there are plenty to continue our reading buddy program for years to come! What a kind and generous gift!

To specifically name all that we are grateful for could go on indefinitely. Our Westminster Church Family is at the top of that list! Praying God’s Blessings to all in 2021!



Preschool Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year begins January 1 for Westminster families and current preschool families, and February 2 for the public.



BUILDING/OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Church building and office will be closed on January 1 for New Year's Day and January 18 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Pastor Chris Vacation

Pastor Chris will be away from the office for vacation beginning Friday, January 1-9. In the event of a pastoral care concern, contact the church office and follow the prompts on our voicemail.

Adult Education Luke Bible Study Wednesdays at 7pm via Zoom

Bible Study is resuming on January 13 and will begin Luke Part Two at Luke 19:28. Each group of readings is informed by an introductory video. All participants are asked to watch the video: "BibleProject Luke Part Two" (Google that title) before January 13. To receive the Zoom link and register for the next class, email Tom Pappas

"Live" Virtual Worship | January 17

Our January 17 worship service will be live at 9:00am on Zoom, as we prepare to ordain and install our new elders and deacons. The brief worship service will be followed by a time of fellowship similar to our recent "Coffee with Chris" sessions. The Zoom link will be available in the eVine on January 6 and 13th.

Spring Stated Meeting 2021

Our Spring Congregational Meeting for purposes of hearing an annual report and approving the 2021 budget will be held via Zoom at 10:30am on Sunday, February 21. More details will be shared as the meeting nears.

Quarantine Food Packing

Westminster has joined Contemplate Lincoln and J-Tech Construction to provide groceries for those who are in quarantine and in-need of assistance. Groceries are purchased by Adam Luedtke of Contemplate and delivered to Westminster's Fellowship Hall for sorting. WPC Volunteers are needed for sorting in teams from 2-3pm Monday through Saturday. We will limit to 2-4 volunteers each shift. We ask that volunteers go through a brief training at the start of their first shift. You may donate at contemplatelincoln.org or volunteer by contacting Steve Hughes (skh@eskays.com).

COFFEE WITH CHRIS PETERS

Coffee with Chris will resume in February. Watch the eVine for more information.

Mission and Outreach Coat, Hat & Glove Drive

The coat drive is officially done and it was a GREAT success! Mission & Outreach send a big thank you out for your help in making it possible.

Westminster's Green@Heart

Styrofoam packaging and broken string lights are now being collected at Westminster for recycling. **We can't accept disposable food containers or packing peanuts.** Together we can keep piles of wire and white stuff out of the landfill.



Some of the Care Packages for the Quarantined distribution.



Mission and Outreach members helping with the Winter Coat, Hat & Glove Drive

Virtual Communion | Sunday, January 3, 2021

The General Assembly Council and Clerk have given churches leave to have members prepare their own elements at home and receive as they watch virtual worship. Before you watch the Communion service, please have bread (of any sort) and a cup of grape juice or wine for each member of your household who is watching.

Confirmation Begins in January!

What is Confirmation? **Confirmation is a journey of spiritual growth and learning for 9th graders (and older who have not yet participated) at Westminster.** Confirmation 2021 begins January 10 with a Zoom Orientation with Pastor Chris and adult leaders. Confirmation will follow the Big God, Big Questions curriculum from the PCUSA, and we will walk through a semester of engaging questions of our faith in fun and creative ways. To RSVP for the Orientation and receive the Zoom link, contact Pastor Chris ASAP (chris@westminsterlincoln.org). Please see the tentative schedule on opposite page. Final class times and plans will be discussed at the Orientation session!

LNO Ladies Night Out

All Westminster women are welcome at our virtual “night out” once a month. In December we shared news about our own lives (doubling our joys and bearing each other's sorrows) and also talked about some special Westminster goings-on. We’d love to have YOU join the conversation! Upcoming gatherings will be at 5:30 pm on Tuesday evenings, January 12 and February 9. Contact Laurel Van Ham or the church office to get the Zoom link. Easy directions included for any who haven’t Zoomed before.

Messenger Articles Reminder:

All information for The Messenger is due to Tracy Hoffman at tracy@westminsterlincoln.org by the 18th of each month. And all announcements for The eVine are due to Tracy and Joanne Gabriel at joanne@westminsterlincoln.org and please by 5 pm on Monday of each week.

Prayer Requests

For prayer requests, concerns and praises, please send email to: prayer@westminsterlincoln.org. Requests will be forwarded to the Prayer Ministry Group. 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.

Westminster Presbyterian



BIG GOD

BIG QUESTIONS



2021 Confirmation Schedule

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

1:00-2:00pm on Zoom

Orientation Gathering: "What is Confirmation"

Who: Youth, Parents, Pastor Chris

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

Session 2: "How Do We Know and Trust God?"

Who? Youth, Leaders

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Session 3: "What is Sin and How Do We Turn from It?"

Who? Youth, Leaders

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Session 4: "Who is Your Lord?"

Who? Youth, Leaders

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Session 5: "Who is Your Savior?"

Who? Youth, Leaders

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Session 6: "What Does it Mean to Be a Disciple of Jesus?"

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Session 7: "What Does it Mean to Show Christ's Love?"

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders

SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Session 8: "What Does it Mean to Devote Yourself to the Church's Teaching?"

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Session 9: "Will You Devote Yourself to the Church's Fellowship?"

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Session 10: "Will You Devote Yourself to the Breaking of the Bread?"

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

Session 10: "Will You Devote Yourself to the Prayers?"

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders

WEEKEND OF APRIL 17-18

Session 10: "Are You Ready to Cross Over?" / Class Service Project

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders

(TBD WITH CLASS) - APRIL 25?

Confirmation Sunday!!!

Who? Youth, Mentors, Leaders, Parents



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502

Westminster Virtual Social Hour is back!

Join us on Zoom to play an in-home game of Scavenger Hunt! All you need is your electronic device with Zoom on it, paper and pencil for scoring, a beverage of choice, your smiles and laughter!

Whether you are young or old, near or far away (SNOWBIRDS), a family of one or of ten;

EVERYONE can play. **Zoom Meeting ID: 899 43945995 | Passcode: Welcome**

For assistance or questions about Zoom, contact Kathy Rohwedder at kathrohwa@yahoo.com or call (402) 2020-9889.

Westminster Social Hour
Presents
2021 Fun and Games!
Join us for a virtual in your home scavenger hunt!
January 24th, 2021 at 7pm on Zoom.

