

June  
2021



**Meet Our New Children  
& Youth Ministries  
Director**  
Details on page 3.



**WORSHIP WITH US  
IN THE SANCTUARY  
OR ONLINE  
ON SUNDAYS**



**VIRTUAL  
COMMUNION  
SUNDAY, JUNE 6**

# THE MESSENGER



Westminster Church Family,

One thing Lauren and I quickly learned during our first May in our new home in Lincoln was that we never knew what would bloom or sprout up next! From orange Chinese roses to green catnip (Mobi and Jubilee, our dogs, were not impressed) to long-awaited white and red peonies to, ahem, weeds...

It seemed each morning there was a new plant, new bloom, or new color in our yard. Spring 2021 has been refreshing and inspiring after the season of Winter but also the season of uncertainty we've all experienced the past fourteen months.

One of my favorite scriptures, Isaiah 43:19, talks about beauty springing up around us during a season of uncertainty...

"I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert."  
Isaiah 43:19

I love the question that follows God's promise to do a new thing for the Israelites, "do you not perceive it?" It serves as a challenge and a call to be people who can perceive – and receive – the new things God is doing for restoration and renewal in the life of the people.

Westminster, can we perceive the ways God is doing a new thing – springing forth in our church today? I would love to hear from our church members about ways you are perceiving God's care and faithfulness for our church or in your life outside of church (email to [chris@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:chris@westminsterlincoln.org)). To start, I'll share two of the many ways I perceive God's care springing up amongst us at WPC...

The newness, yet striking familiarity and comfort, of our return to Sanctuary Worship. Our Task Force, Session, Worship Guides, and various committees have done an incredible job of communicating, adapting, and welcoming us back. More importantly, from the "Pastor's Chair" I can see the deep sense of care and commitment we all have for our Westminster family and this wonderful church community!

The newness, and exciting beginning, of welcoming Trish Souliere to our staff as Director of Children and Youth Ministries. Trish not only brings great experience working with children and youth in church and public school settings, but she also brings to us a vibrant enthusiasm toward the nurture of our children, youth, and their families on the journey of faith. As we introduce Trish to our Westminster family, I hope you will introduce yourself with a call, email, card, or sign of care. We want to support our staff from day one, and this is a great opportunity for us to do so following Trish's first day recently on May 26th!

I hope you will send me your examples of "new things" you are perceiving! We'll share them in a wider way in the coming weeks and months.

With Gratitude  
Rev. Chris Peters



Dear Westminster Family,

My name is Trish Souliere and I am so excited to tell you that I will soon be joining your congregation as the next Director of Children & Youth Ministries. Although I have only had a short amount of time to learn about Westminster through the interview process, I am already charmed by both the beauty of your church and the welcoming spirit of its members.

But before I get too far ahead of myself and jump headlong into making plans and asking for your ideas, I would like to take a brief moment to introduce myself. I have lived in Lincoln for more than 35 years and have been directly involved with Christian education for almost 20. From volunteering to teach Sunday School at First Plymouth Congregational Church to serving as Chair for their Board of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, I have a great deal of experience that I am excited to bring to this position. In addition, I also have a master's degree in education and recently completed my fourth year serving as an academic mentor for highly gifted children in Lincoln Public Schools.

On a more personal level, I love to read fantasy literature, write short stories, and play board games. My Hogwarts letter may have gotten lost in the mail, but I have it on good authority I would have been sorted into Hufflepuff. I am also an avid fan of the Dallas Cowboys, but of course I love the Huskers more. Above all else, however, the most important things that you should know about me are my core values and educational philosophy:

**1. I believe that education is the answer to almost every problem.**

A quality education equips us with both knowledge and the wisdom to use it well. With solid support from teachers in school, family at home, and our community at church, we become our best and most authentic selves, which is exactly what God calls us all to be. We have each been blessed along the way by good mentors and inspiring teachers who have helped teach us to understand the world and our place in it, and I believe that we have a duty to share that wisdom with others as well.

**2. I believe that children are vital members of our church family.**

Although this might seem like common sense, I think it is something that is all too often forgotten or misunderstood. Our children are not simply the future of our faith, they are also its present. If we treat our children as resources to be developed and ignore the very real contributions they can make right now, then we are neglecting a key part of our church community and missing out on a highly rewarding form of fellowship.

**3. I believe that we are called to be the message of Christ.**

When Jesus came to our world so long ago, he turned everything that we knew upside down and inside out. He brought new meaning to what it meant to be God's people by telling us that love is more important than anything else. Two-thousand years later, our society now looks very different. Our problems seem more complex, less relevant to the scripture, and more difficult to solve, but what is required of us has not changed. We are still called to act with love in everything we do, and when love is the motivation behind who we are, then we become the message.

Ultimately, those are only a few of the things there are to know about me and what I think is important (I know, there's even more stuff?). But as we begin returning to normal in the months to come, and as we start to ramp-up new youth programming, I look forward to getting to know you all better and teaming up to do great things together.



## Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation Announcement

The Westminster Presbyterian Foundation is offering cemetery spaces in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery for sale to church members, and the public. The seven lots, in two different locations, were donated to the Foundation some time ago. The Foundation Board has decided to sell them, and we want Westminster members to be among the first to know.

Two spaces are located in Section T, and normally sell for \$3,995 each. The location is under beautiful trees. The Foundation has advertised both spaces for \$5500.

The other location is in Section I, with five spaces adjoining each other. The location is in an open area, with beautiful pine trees nearby. The cemetery charges \$2,995 each for these spaces, but the Foundation has advertised them for \$2200 each.

The Lincoln Memorial Cemetery charges a transfer fee of \$295 per transaction, regardless of how many spaces. The Foundation will pay the transfer fee for sales to Westminster members. If you have any interest in purchasing one or more of these cemetery spaces, or if you need further information, please contact Greg Hershberger at 402-817-8522.

## ADULT EDUCATION BIBLE STUDY LUKE SERIES

Join us via Zoom as we continue our Study of Luke on Wednesdays.

Contact Tom Pappas to enroll and get the Zoom link.

tpappas@windstream.net

## Knit-N-Sit | Wednesdays | Church Lounge | 6:30 -8:00 p.m.

We are a small group of people who like to knit, crochet or do other hand work.

We have donated yarn to share. We make hats, scarves and other warm items to give to the City Mission.

You are welcome to work on your own projects if you like. We hope to see you.

## Prayer Requests

For prayer requests, concerns and praises, please send email to: [prayer@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@westminsterlincoln.org).

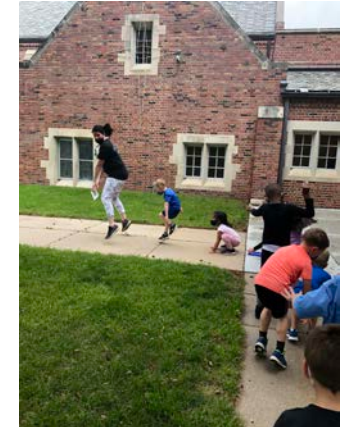
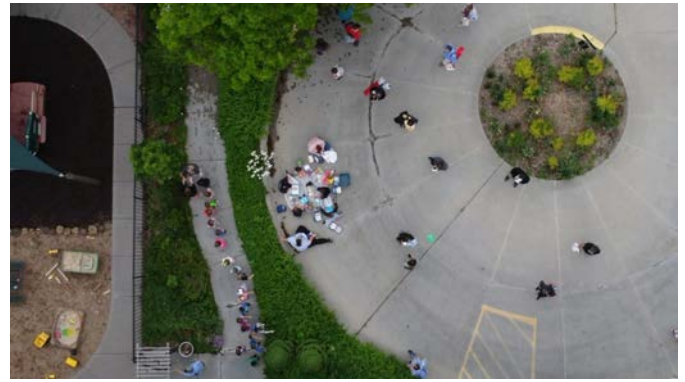
## Messenger Articles Reminder:

All information for The Messenger is due to Tracy Hoffman at [tracy@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto: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](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) by 5 pm on Monday of each week.



## Westminster Preschool

We had a fantastic ending to a wonderful year! We will let the pictures of our Mother's Day Event, Graduation and First Annual Westminster Preschool Marathon speak for themselves! Thank you, Westminster Church family, for your continued, prayerful support of the preschool! On to an exciting summer learning adventure!





# Congratulations Class of 2021 Graduates

**Gabrielle Hoffman**

Graduating from Lincoln Southwest High School  
Lincoln Southwest Honor Roll – 4.0 GPA, Lincoln G.O.L.D.,  
Member of Lincoln Southwest Cheerleading (4 years) \*Varsity  
Captain, Member of Chase Dance – Dance Company  
Plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University, double majoring in  
biology and psychology

**Ella Ford**

Graduating from Lincoln Southwest High School  
Graduating with Highest Distinction, President of  
National Honor Society, LPS Scholar Athlete - 4  
years, Girls Varsity Tennis, Unified Bowling Team  
Plans to attend Nebraska Wesleyan University,  
double majoring in biology and psychology.

**Grey Gergen**

Graduating from Lincoln Southeast High School  
High School Activity Highlights - Tennis, swim team, dive team,  
National Honors Society, recipient of the Davis Distinguished  
Scholarship  
Will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in  
Chemical Engineering



### **Grace Hemmerling**

Grace is graduating from North Star High School with Highest Distinction and will be attending Nebraska Wesleyan in the fall. She plans to study elementary education and/or music education. In High School, she was involved in National Honors Society, Theater, Concert Choir, and Starlight Voices Choir. She volunteers as a youth volleyball coach and will be working as a camp counselor at Calvin Crest over the summer.



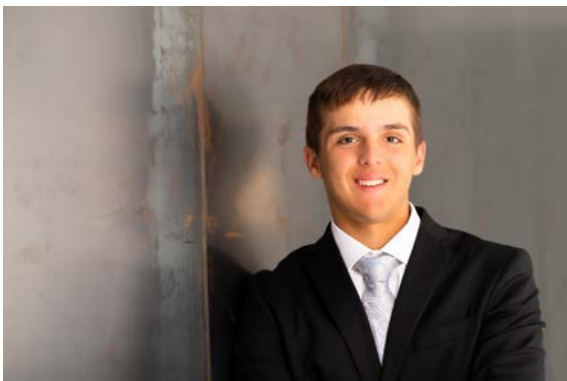
### **Graham William Peterson**

Graduating from Lincoln Southeast High School  
4-year Varsity Tennis Letter Winner and 2-year Team Captain  
National Honor Society and 4-year Honor Roll member  
2020 State Tennis Champion, 1 Doubles Lincoln Tennis Association Sportsmanship Player of the Year  
Attending Coe College, majoring in Business and playing tennis.



### **Ethan Schainost**

Graduating from Lincoln East High School  
High School Highlights - Making movies and enjoying all the social aspects that high school brings!  
Will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Business Finance.



### **Trevor Yorges**

Graduating from Lincoln Southeast High School  
Graduating Magna Cum Laude, Academic Letter, National Honors Society, and 4.0+ Award, Academic All-Conference for baseball and football; and Baseball and Football Letterman.  
Trevor plans to attend Graceland University on the Trustee's Academic Scholarship and a baseball scholarship. He plans to major in Business Management while playing baseball for Graceland.

## Messages Shared from Tree of Life Creation Project

Talk with my financial advisor about  
 divesting my IRA from fossil fuels  
 Pick up litter in the neighborhood  
 Take shorter showers  
 Continue to recycle—glass, tin,  
 newspaper, cardboard, plastic  
 Recycle my newspapers  
 Eat meatless at least once a week  
 Review our carbon footprint, take action  
 Recycle more  
 Install solar panels on house  
 Have a hybrid car  
 Less trash and more recycling  
 Subscribe to refuse company's recycling  
 Recycle paper and cardboard everyday  
 Pick up trash as I walk  
 Write more letters to officials about  
 climate change  
 Rake my front lawn  
 Stop pre-rinsing dishes  
 Shop more at local Farmers' Markets  
 Use other, more sustainable modes of  
 transportation  
 Pick up litter and recycle it  
 Finish adding insulation to attic  
 Purchasing food with least possible  
 non-recyclable packing  
 Take our reusable bags to grocery store  
 Kids decorate our bird feeder  
 to use this summer  
 Use reusable cloth bags for grocery shopping  
 Compost yard waste  
 Use canvas bags for shopping  
 Say "No thanks" to plastic drinking straws  
 Install/use rain barrels to water plants  
 Pick up litter  
 Try to eliminate food waste in our home  
 Increase and tend my pollinator garden  
 Plant a tree  
 Plant drought-resistant turf varieties  
 Take kitchen scraps to Community  
 Garden compost  
 Plant buffalo grass that does not need  
 much water and no mowing  
 Recycle plastics and cardboard/paper  
 Take reusable bags for shopping



Sort, pass on used clothing to City Mission  
 Give read books to library  
 Throw trash away  
 Observe meatless Mondays  
 Use tap water more—fewer water bottles in  
 car and home  
 Use cloth grocery bags  
 Replace using so much plastic and foil wrap  
 with reusable containers  
 Use rain barrels  
 Install geothermal HVAC system  
 Build a compost pile  
 Hang a bird feeder and keep it filled  
 Turn off water when brushing teeth  
 Turn down heat at night  
 Use environmentally responsible investing  
 for retirement funds  
 Water plants  
 Lower thermostat during Winter, raise  
 it in Summer  
 Install and use programmable thermostat  
 Purchase drought resistant outdoor plants



## Messages Shared from Tree of Life Creation Project

Pass on outgrown clothes  
 Plant more plants and trees  
 Put plants in the containers  
     on my balcony  
 Make a compost pile  
 Start a worm farm to help compost  
     scraps and help the garden  
 Take reusable bags to  
     the grocery store  
 Plant flowers or shrubs  
     that attract bees and butterflies  
 Turn the thermostat up in  
     summer and down in winter  
 Drink tap water/less bottled water  
 Help my daughter plant a vegetable  
     garden in unused space in my yard  
 Never buy/use plastic water bottles  
 Take a bag to pick up litter as I walk  
 Use cloth bags or reuse paper bags  
 Use soaker hoses instead of overhead  
     sprinkler for garden  
 Adjust the thermostat two degrees  
     lower in winter and higher in summer  
 Take along a bag to pick up trash on walks  
 Pass on outgrown clothing to  
     someone who can use it  
 Conserve water and reduce  
     pollutants going into it  
 Study and learn about native plants  
     and introduce two natives  
 Carry reusable straws in my car  
     to save from throw-away plastics  
 Expand my pollinator garden  
 Grow our own veggies in the  
     new raised bed we made this spring  
 Say "No thanks" to plastic straws  
 Be more careful about recycling  
 Use less chemicals and more natural  
     ingredients when cleaning  
 Limit pre-rinsing dishes  
 Recycle  
 Put up a hummingbird feeder  
 Use re-usable shopping bags

Use cloth napkins instead of paper  
 Become active in Citizens' Climate Lobby  
 Recycle used electronics  
 Learn to use En-ROADS  
 Replace exterior doors with energy efficient  
 ones and add weather stripping to windows  
 Use natural pest and weed control  
 Turn off faucet while brushing teeth  
 Wash and recycle soup cans  
 Save brown paper grocery sacks and reuse  
     them as gift sacks with tissue paper  
 Turn the faucet off while you brush your teeth  
 Quit using paper towels and  
     napkins—use all cloth  
 Better insulate our home  
 Get a rain barrel  
 Take reusable bags to shop  
 Conserve Earth's resources by picking up  
     trash and recycling  
 Adjust thermostat down in Winter and up  
     in Summer  
 Reuse cloth bags for shopping  
 Compost  
 Recycle everything possible  
 Take used clothing to thrift store  
 Support Food Bank monthly  
 Turn off one of two air conditioners  
 Grow vegetables in our backyard using  
     drip irrigation  
 Compost and recycle  
 Use reusable bags for shopping  
 Add native plants to landscape  
 Use less electricity and water so our  
 Earth may survive  
 Plant a flower

There were 122 leaves filled out and  
 placed on the tree with over 164  
 actions! Watch for the July Messenger  
 to read the rest of the actions!

"Thank you for being green!!"  
 GREEN @HEART

## Westminster Supports Lincoln Marathon

On May 2nd, Westminster's Children and Youth Ministry teamed up with the Mission and Outreach Ministry to support the Lincoln Marathon. We handed out donut holes and water bottles to spectators and runners alike from a station in front of the church. Included in the runners this year were Westminster's very own Rob Baltensperger, Owen Killham, Lauren Dyer along with Laurie, Kraig, and Lexi Lofquist.





## Creation Celebration Sunflowers

On April 3rd, members of Green@Heart gathered in Tom's & Laurel's back yard and prepared 118 kits consisting of a flower pot, a bag of potting soil, an envelope containing sunflower seeds, and a little sheet of directions. On April 16th, Sandi and Steve Larson delivered the kits to about 60 homes where our Sunday School kids live. The picture on the right shows what happened next! The Sunflowers are growing!



### How to Donate to the Garden Room Renovation Project

**With a check**

- Make out a check to Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- Write "Garden Room" on memo line

**Online**

- Go to Westminster's website
- Click on "Giving"
- Click on "Online Giving"
- Click on "Online giving here"
- Enter gift amount
- Select "non-pldg member"
- Enter your credit card number to pay
- Email Dennis Rohren at: [Dennis@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:Dennis@westminsterlincoln.org) and let him know your donation is for the Garden Room project.
- Or, you can let Sandi Larson know and she will inform Dennis.

## Garden Party Fund Raiser

On behalf of the Westminster Foundation and the Garden Room Remodeling Task Force, may we extend a sincere thank you to those who attended the Garden Party Fundraiser on Sunday, May 23. Our efforts to refresh the Garden Room are underway. If you would like to support this project, the details for making a donation are provided below. We are raising funds to build a coffee bar, purchase new furniture and artwork, and display Westminster's mission statement. We are hoping to create a welcoming space for our guests and members. All contributions will be gratefully welcomed and acknowledged.



Westminster Presbyterian Church  
2110 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68502

## Congratulations to our Confirmation Class

### Congratulations 2021 Confirmation Class!

Your Westminster Family is proud of you and grateful for your affirming of your faith in Christ!

Jacquelyn Douglas  
Mimi Hoffman  
Barrett Jex  
Sydney Laux  
Izzy Laux  
William McConnell  
Mallory Witt  
Tanner Yorges

