

July
2021



**The church building
will be closed Monday,
July 5 for the holiday.**



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



Communion Sunday

**VIRTUAL &
SANCTUARY
COMMUNION
SUNDAY, JULY 11**

THE MESSENGER



Westminster Church Family,

Me (Pastor Chris): "A Presbyterian's response to God's grace and love in our lives is ____..." Our Congregation (on June 20): "Gratitude!" Recently in worship, we have been sharing a Moment of Gratitude where we've lifted up something good in the life of our Westminster Church family aloud. These have included recognizing Worship Guides, thanking Deacons, naming the good work of our Director of Children's and Youth Ministries hiring committee, and congratulating Martha Kingsbury for her recognition as Nebraska Library Association Volunteer of the Year (and thanking her for our good work with Westminster's library!).

Each week I begin this time by reminding our congregation that as Presbyterians, we say our response to God's grace is gratitude. On June 20th, I "tested" those gathered to fill in the blank, and there was a clear and loud response of "GRATITUDE!" As Pastor, that makes me glad that the hopeful message we're communicating in worship is sinking-in. As part of the Westminster Family myself, it makes me glad and grateful that the culture of our church is one that increasingly recognizes the importance of thanksgiving, praise, joy, humor, and hope in the life of faith! That's the type of church I hoped to be called to serve, and it's the type of church I would want to attend if I were not a pastor!

In recent weeks we've also had other moments of gratitude – welcoming Trish Souliere as Director of Children's and Family Ministries and beginning to build relationships with her among our families, welcoming John Ross back to the "organist's bench" while celebrating Jeremy Duck's continuing role with us, and the beginning work of our Vision Task Force. That group is seeking to help us build on our mission statement of being, "An inclusive faith family, inspired by Jesus Christ, to call, nurture, and empower disciples" with a vision for the next five years for all areas of life at Westminster!

Looking ahead, I am excited and grateful for some 'big news' we'll be sharing next month about Kick-Off/Genesis Sunday on September 12 and a September church wide learning and service series, as well as resuming a full schedule of education, youth, and children's programs in September. I could write all day about good things ongoing or in the near future of our church, but I want to end with a "challenge" or "call" to those reading. I often end my sermons on a similar note...

Your challenge in July is to reach out to someone you haven't seen (if you've been attending worship) or haven't heard from in the life of the church. I am committing to doing my part by sharing a schedule of times I am available for "Chats with Chris" over the summer and making my own invitations. The fact is that studies show the number one way people come to church (new or returning) is through a personal invitation from someone they know – a friend, co-worker, family member or neighbor. Our task as a church is to always share the good news of Jesus, while our task for July is to share our gratitude and the hopeful news of the ways we will be making a Westminster difference during Fall 2021 and for years to come!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris

Moment of Gratitude

As Pastor Chris has been sharing in worship, in the Presbyterian tradition we emphasize that our response to God's grace is a response of gratitude. You are invited to share something you're grateful for with us for an upcoming Moment of Gratitude in worship.

To share, email Pastor Chris (chris@westminsterlincoln.org) a few sentences about something in the life of our church for which you are grateful. Please indicate if you would like a pastor to share this in our sanctuary worship service or if you would be willing to share yourself from the lectern. The Moment of Gratitude will be a part of worship at least through the summer months.

YOUR SESSION IN ACTION JUNE 2021

- Allocated \$36,700 of 2021 budget surplus to various Session committees and to the Sanctuary Live-Streaming System Project.
- Changed July Communion to July 11 and added Sanctuary communion using pre-packaged elements. We will resume first Sunday communions in August using pre-packaged elements.
- Passed proposed bylaws changes to be presented to the congregation at the Fall stated meeting for approval.
- Accepted FMA Realty, Inc. as property maintenance management for WPC.
- Made additional changes to WPC guidelines, in keeping with changing COVID knowledge.
- Approved a choral event in the Sanctuary by the UNL choirs in 2022.

You're invited to join the Westminster Usher Team

The Worship and Music Committee is looking for people to become our new group of welcoming faces at church. You would become part of a team of six ushers to greet people as they approach the Sanctuary, give out bulletins, show people to their seats, and help pass the collection plates during the service. Typically, ushers serve one Sunday per month, and a one-year commitment would be appreciated. The new usher term will begin the Sunday after Labor Day. You'll be given a simple training before your term begins. If you are interested please contact Diana Wild at 402-440-0699. We'd love to have you on our team! This is a wonderful way to greet old friends and meet new friends while welcoming others to Westminster.

Westminster Children & Youth Development

The average parent has 936 weeks from the time their child is born to the time they graduate from high school... 936 weeks to teach their child about the challenges of this world and equip them with the tools and values they need to succeed. If you are the parent of a newborn, that may seem like a lot of time. After all, 936 is a pretty big number. 936 popsicles would melt long before you could eat even half of them, and you could barely even fit 936 marbles into a single jar. So if you really have that much time to spend with your child, then you can probably just sit back and coast, right?

Well, let's stick with the marbles as our example and look at what happens when those weeks start to pass. If you remove a marble for each week of your child's life then, by age one, you'll be left with 882 marbles. That still seems like a lot, but that jar is starting to get roomier. By the time your child is five, you'll have removed 260 marbles and have 676 left. By the time your child is 10, you've dropped below the halfway mark, and have only 416 marbles remaining. Now maybe you're starting to perceive how the sand in the hourglass accelerates. Every year seems to pass faster than the last until you wind up at age 17 with only 52 weeks to go. Where will all that time have gone? What will you have done in the past 884 weeks to influence your child and to guide them down the right path? Is there anything you can do in those last 52 weeks to make a difference?

"When you see how much time you have left, you tend to get serious about the time you have now."

Now the truth is, if you are a parent, you probably don't need a jar of marbles to convince you that it is important to spend time with your children. Every milestone from when they take their first steps to when they drive their first car is a bittersweet reminder of how quickly our children grow up. But what these marbles might help to remind us is that parents are not the only influence our children need to thrive. Kids need to develop relationships with caring adults in their faith community and they need to know that someone at church knows who they are and cares what happens to them. They need to see God's love in action.

The reality is that we don't get 936 marbles here at church. The average Sunday School teacher / Faith Village Leader only has 1 hour per week to make those connections. And, in reality, they have less time than that once you account for the days when Sunday School is not in session or when the child is sick or absent for another reason. This means that every single hour that our kids spend at church is crucial. It means we need to make every single one of those marbles count.

That is where you come in. We need you to develop those relationships and to show our kids what being a Christian is all about. We are beginning to assemble our children's team for the 2021-2022 school year and are looking for a great group of volunteers to make a difference in the lives of our children and youth. But you are not just volunteering to provide a warm body or to even fill a need, you are joining a dynamic community that is essential to the life of the church.

"But wait! I'm not a Biblical scholar. I can't possibly teach kids about the Bible."

You don't need to be an expert on the Bible to be a Sunday school leader. The #1 quality you need is the ability to care. We need people who are willing to love the kids they are guiding and the rest of it, like stories, crafts, games, and discussion questions are all things that we will provide for you. All you need to do is show up.

"But wait! I don't have any special skills to share."

First of all, you probably have more to offer than you think. Whether you like going bungee jumping or enjoy doing macrame, we need all kinds of people to do all kinds of things. Plus, we will provide support and training for our small group leaders.

"But wait! I'm too old or too young or too [fill-in-the-blank] to volunteer to work with kids."

We need people of all ages and talents. However old you are, whatever talents you have, God can use you.

"But wait! I don't have time to volunteer."

Not every volunteer opportunity is a multi-hour, every-week commitment. We are looking to fill openings for small group leaders for every age group that meet each week, but we also have a number of other events that take place throughout the year. If being a small group leader will not fit into your schedule, consider volunteering to help staff a special event or offer your services to help assemble craft projects.

Wess Stafford once said "Every child you encounter is a divine appointment." Take a chance and explore kid's ministry -- don't miss your appointment. You can absolutely make a difference and change the world just by being present for the children at Westminster.

Ready to join us? Sign up online <https://forms.gle/HviVwFdoi3G8LUNp6> and we will find a place for you.



Adult Education Bible Study of Ephesians

Join us via Zoom for Bible Study on Wednesdays. Contact Tom Pappas to enroll and get the Zoom link.
tpappas@windstream.net

Knit-N-Sit | Wednesdays | Church Library | 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.

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, July 21 | Fellowship Hall | 1:00pm

All are welcome.

Books: *The Only Woman in the Room* and *Carnegie's Maid*, both by Marie Benedict.

Discussion leaders: *Susie Hughes and Kathryn Govaerts.*

Ladies Night Out | Billy's Restaurant | Thursday, July 22 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Our next in-person Ladies' Night Out gathering will be at **Billy's Restaurant** located at 1301 H Street in Lincoln. You are welcome to drop-in anytime at your leisure. The price for heavy family-style appetizers is still \$12.00/person, tax, tip and drink cost are additional. Feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings.

Prayer Requests, Concerns and Praises

For prayer requests, concerns and praises, please send to the email address: 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.

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 by 5 pm on Monday of each week.

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Green@Heart, Earth Care, & LES

Trying to practice good earth care at home? LES wants to help, so fasten your seat belt!

July 19-24 is the LES's Annual Sustainable Living Week. Tune in here for a week of live-stream events and on-demand videos: <https://education.les.com> And register here (free) to test drive an electric car: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/les-ev-ride-drive-tickets-151549427417> All test drivers also receive a \$5 voucher to use at a vendor food truck.

Green@Heart & Tour de Friends Community Event: Climate Ride Event

We have learned about this group—mainly Mennonite college students—who are cycling from Seattle to Washington DC in a climate ride. One of their stops will be in Lincoln, Thursday July 1, where they will be having an Ice Cream Social and a panel on climate justice, and the next day (Friday) local cyclists are invited to join the ride for a while. There's more information at <https://sustainableclimatesolutions.org/climate-ride-events/>

Westminster Books Sale

The annual Westminster Book Sale will be held from Sunday, August 8 to Sunday, Aug. 15. Do you have books to donate? Please bring them to Fellowship Hall. The East door of the church is usually unlocked from 10 am to 2 pm during the week, except 9 am to 1 pm on Tuesdays. If these times don't work for you, call the church at 402-475-6702. Other questions can be directed to Martha Kingsbury at 402-304-7052. Proceeds go to the Church Library.



Swanson Scholarship Winner

The Westminster Foundation is very pleased to announce that Grace Hemmerling is the winner of the 2021 Swanson Scholarship. Grace has been an outstanding student at Lincoln North Star High School and has given many hours to both volunteer work and to Westminster, where she is a very active member. She will be attending Nebraska Wesleyan University and plans to study Elementary Education or Music Education.

The Swanson Scholarship is generously given by Libby and Steve Jacobs in honor of Libby's parents, Mary and the late Bill Swanson who are long-time members of Westminster Church. Congratulations, Grace!

Children and Youth Committee

This month, the Children and Youth Committee began planning activities for the coming year and we are so excited to be starting new activities in the fall! Here is a sneak preview of what is to come.

On Sunday, July 11, the Youth Group will be getting together for hot dogs and disc golf at the Tierra Park course from 1:00-3:00. We will meet at 1:00 at the park and have lunch before dividing into teams to play the course (with a fun Westminster YG twist). After all the teams have finished, we will get back together to talk about our experience and about the coming year.

- On Friday, August 6, we will be wrapping up the summer with an all-church Pool Party at Star City Shores. Bring your family and your friends to join us from 7:30-9:00. Pastor Chris has agreed to ride down the big swirly slide, so this will be a must-see event.
- Kick-off Sunday will take place at 10:30 on Sunday, September 12. Look for games, balloon animals, the bouncy house, face painting, food, and more fun. In addition to all the fun stuff, committees will be showcasing upcoming activities and families can get their kids signed up for Faith Village as well as meet our dedicated Small Group Leaders. You can register your children for Faith Village in advance by completing the online form <https://forms.gle/U4o8LURZ8BMyAtBVA>.
- Parents' Night Out begins again on September 15.
- Faith Village and Youth Group resume on September 19.
- Spooktacular will be back on October 24. Bring your princesses, goblins, superheroes and more to trick or treat in the church parking lot. More details to come.
- C is for Christmas will be back as well to kick off the Advent season. We are still in the first stages of planning but will share details as soon as we have them.

Keep watching the eVine, the Messenger, Facebook, and your email for additional events and details as they become available.



Thank you, Westminster Church family, for your continued, prayerful support of the preschool.

Summer Learning & Adventure has begun!



WESTMINSTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2021

Administration & Planning (A&P)

Tim Gergen, Moderator
Marybell Avery
Joyce Douglas
Margaret Sprude
Allen Wachter
Emily Killham
Rev. Chris Peters, Staff Member

Adult Education

Tom Pappas, Moderator
Brenda Wristen
Stanley Rediger
Dalyce Ronnau
Sandi Larson
Kathy Phillip
Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn, Staff Member

Building & Grounds

Mark Davis, Co-Moderator
Rob Baltensperger, Co-Moderator
Steve Larson
Rev. Chris Peters, Staff Member

Children & Youth

Laurie Lofquist, Moderator
Jana Dyer
Sandi Larson
Sarah Baltensperger
Stacy Graham
Grace Hemmerling
Edison McDonald
Rex Martin
Trish Souliere, Staff Member

Church Life

Kathy Rohwedder, Moderator
Janice Rohwedder
Donna Wyatt
Pam Martin
Linda Burchard
Cathy Hershberger
Bruce Sheffield
Margaret Sheffield
Francy Scheele
Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn, Staff Member

Mission & Outreach

Steve Hughes, Moderator
Glenna Haller
Tom Welstead
Carolyn Harp
Dalyce Roneau
Marilyn Smith
Jennifer Smith
Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn, Staff Member

Nominations

Kathy Rohwedder, Moderator
Rev. Chris Peters, Staff Member

Personnel

Emily Killham, Moderator
Gary Moulton
H Seward
Rev. Chris Peters, Staff Member

Preschool Advisory

Gwen Thorpe, Moderator
Emily Shelstad
Katie & Walker Zulkoski
Katelyn Tschetter
Auriel Logenstein
Rachel Hinze, Staff Member

Stewardship & Finance

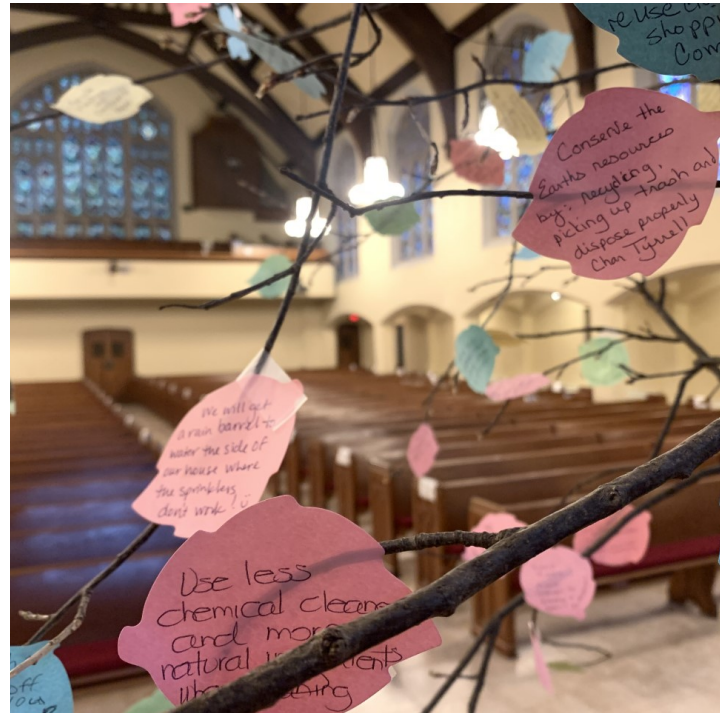
Gwen Thorpe, Co-Moderator
Allen Wachter, Co-Moderator
Rev. Chris Peters, Staff Member

Worship & Music

Diana Wild, Moderator
Cyndy Maddux, Vice-Moderator
April Douglas
David Anderson
Sharon Cape
Michael Gregg
Freda Gregg
Jim Kinkennon
Rita Kinkennon
Kim Kubic
Mary Tomlinson
Mike Tomlinson
Rev. Chris Peters, Staff Member

Messages Shared from Tree of Life Creation Project Continued from The June Messenger

Set programmable thermostat for when we are sleeping or not home
 Adjust thermostat down in winter and up in summer
 Schedule less irrigation for my lawn
 Take more efficient showers
 Brush teeth with less water
 Don't pollute
 Increase plant-based diet by 50%
 Use LED lighting
 Have more plants
 Turn off water when I brush my teeth
 Check items for codes
 Recycle every day
 Control water use
 Get a home energy audit and make some recommended changes
 Donate clothing
 Use cloth bags for shopping
 Consolidate errands
 Refill travel mug from tap
 Fix leaking faucets and running toilets
 Use our reusable bags more
 Recycle extra bags
 Continue recycling service
 Feed birds
 Plant shrubs to attract bees and butterflies
 Adjust thermostat by season
 Donate clothing regularly
 Fill water bottles from tap
 Use natural lawn care products
 Pass on clothing to others in need
 Shop in consignment and thrift stores
 Run washing machine only with full loads
 Install new windows
 Unplug extra plugs
 Feed birds
 Provide bat and butterfly houses
 Take reusable bags to grocery store
 Use LED lights throughout house
 Buy Energy Star appliances
 Put bird feeders throughout the yard
 Lead and support Spring Creek Prairie
 Combine errands to reduce mileage



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

Donate clothing
 Limit pre-rinsing dishes
 Run dishwasher only when full
 Turn off faucet when brushing teeth
 Take shorter showers
 Turn off water while brushing teeth
 Recycle more
 Try composting
 Invest in LED bulbs
 Turn down the thermostat
 Fix leaking faucets
 Consolidate errands
 Get a copy of Ten Minute Ecologist
 Buy a newer hybrid car



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502

Congratulations to Martha Kingsbury, who received the Nebraska Library Association's Outstanding Volunteer Award recently.



MARTHA
KINGSBURY

**2021 NLA
OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEER**

Nominated by
Wyatt Packard
Lincoln City Libraries

"Martha's humor, positivity and hard work make the Charles H. Gere Branch Library a better place for library staff and customers," said her nominator, Wyatt Packard, library service associate and Nebraska Library Association Intellectual Freedom chair. In addition to her hours of service to the public library, Martha keeps our Westminster Library organized and accessible. Thank you, Martha!