



# THE MESSENGER

March 2022



Where is God – when we face obstacles, or uncertainty, or times of transition? Where is God? Is God present and moving? Or, is God leaving us to deal with the ups and downs of life on our own? These are questions we ask. Sometimes we weep them or shout them, too. They're the questions of life. And so, these are some of the questions we will explore in the season of Lent this year.

## A Letter to the Congregation from Pastor Chris Peters

Lent is a season in the church calendar where we seek to turn from the ways of sin, idolism, self-interest, nationalism, exclusion, greed – whatever separates us from God. When we turn, we look toward God for our salvation, or rescue. As we encounter the scriptures of Lent and the questions of our lives, I believe we'll find that God Moves with us no matter what we face.

Lent 2022 begins with Ash Wednesday worship on March 2nd. We'll gather for worship at 7:00pm in the sanctuary and online. The words of the evening come from the prophet Joel, where God Moves to hear our concerns, inviting us to "rend your hearts and not your clothing." To connect with the ancient practice of seeking forgiveness, "in sackcloth and ashes," we will share in the practice of imposing (or placing) ashes upon our foreheads in the sign of a cross during our in-person service. Please note that while pastors will impose ashes directly, there will also be a "self-imposition" station available.

Lent worship continues each Sunday morning at 9:30am, where we'll explore the places where God Moves in scripture and in our lives. Bring your questions and bring your hopes. Most of all bring yourself, just as you are – a child of God, made in the image of God. I look forward to our Lenten journey together, as we turn toward the God who moves with us and who never forsakes us.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Chris

## Life Groups Gatherings

### Adult Education Bible Study of Acts of the Apostles

Join us via Zoom for Bible Study on Wednesdays. Contact Tom Pappas to enroll and get the Zoom Meeting information. This group is open to all who wish to attend and learn about scripture book by book.

### Hearts & Hands | Church Library

#### Wednesdays from 1:30 -3:00 PM and at 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Feel free to bring anything you'd like to work on. Some creative things you can enjoy doing with your hands are coloring, rock painting, embroidery, knitting, and stitching. Men and women and ALL craft projects welcome! Questions: Call Francy Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

### Faith and Cancer Support Group | Parlor | Tuesday, March 15 | 7 p.m.

Cancer is associated with many emotions wrapped up within. In our support group at Westminster we can share those thoughts and feelings with others who are experiencing similar concerns. All are welcome. Contact Janice Rohwedder 402 730-5568.

### Ladies Night Out | Billy's | March 29 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM

Mar 29 ~ Billy's \$14.00/per person. Includes assortment of heavy appetizers served family style. (Drink, tax and tip additional). As always, feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings.

### Prairie Readers | Wednesday, March 16 | 1:00 p.m.

Our book for March is *"The Exiles"* by Christina Baker Kline, and Judy will lead the discussion. Watch the eVine for the location announcement. We will make the decision to meet in person or via Zoom closer to the date.

### Presbyterian Circle 4 will meet March 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Host: Cynthia Olson Address: 9321 Thornwood Drive

### Messenger Articles & eVine 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.



## 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 under the GIVE tab or in the church office.

Quick link for electronic Messenger Copy: <https://westminsterlincoln.org/swanson-scholarship-fund-westminster-presbyterian-church-foundation/>

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. Application deadline is March 31.

## Observing Lent with Small Steps

Our friends at Saint Paul United Methodist Church have once again prepared a Lenten calendar with daily suggestions for care of creation, and they are sharing it with the community. You can access the calendar on their website at <https://www.saintpaulumc.org/climate-justice>. Even small steps are easier when we're taking them together!

## Seeking Nature-Minded Helpers

Do you have a special interest in nature? And/or children?

We could use your help to staff one of the activity stations at our upcoming Lorax Party, immediately following worship on Sunday, April 24.

The activities and materials will be provided. What we need from you is a desire to share the wonder of the natural world with the next generation. Please contact Trish Souliere for more information.

## Yay for Westminster Recyclers!

On February 18th Steve Hughes, Bob Leavitt, and Tom Pappas delivered four huge blue bags of styrofoam and 63 pounds of burned-out string lights to their respective recycling centers in Omaha.

Thanks to everyone for this group effort to keep these non-degradable materials out of the landfill and to ensure that they will be reclaimed for future use. Because of YOU, Westminster is Green@Heart.



## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOUNDATION 2021 REPORT

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation in Lincoln was founded in 1955. Its work is an integral part of the life of the Church. Its purposes are twofold:

- To aid Westminster by the solicitation of gifts, grants and bequests of both real and personal property to the Foundation.
- To accept the above gifts and, in turn, hold and administer them as trustee for the use and benefit of the Church.

The Foundation is the union of many gifts—small and large—held in trust and managed by the Board of Trustees for the benefit of Westminster, its programs and properties. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation separate from the Church.

The Board of Trustees consists of up to twelve members. Their term is for three years. Meetings are held at least six times per year but consideration for emergency issues can be considered between meetings.

The Foundation assets are handled by a professional Investment Advisor who attends the meetings at least quarterly to update the Trustees. The Total Assets of the Foundation as of December 31, 2021 was \$4,106,481. This was an increase of \$524,324 over the end of 2020. The dollars are divided between the General Fund and the Endowment Fund.

- The General Fund contains assets without Donor restrictions.
- The Endowment Fund contains assets with detailed Donor restrictions. For example, there are funds specifically for the organ or stained glass windows. Disbursement from the fund can only be used for that exact purpose.

- Only 5% of the fund is available each year to be disbursed and used according to the exact purpose.

In 2021, the Foundation disbursed \$70,287 to be used by the Church. The Swanson Scholarship (\$500.00) was awarded to Grace Hemmerling. Grace applied for the scholarship and combined with her school accomplishments and her many activities at Westminster, she deserved the award. The Foundation also provided \$50,000 to Westminster for general assistance. Through good stewardship and budgeting in the Church, this is a lower amount than past years. We also funded several musicians for special events throughout the year.

The major project for 2021 was to assist with the updating of the Garden Room. Thanks to the excellent project management by Steve and Sandi Larson, the Foundation pledged \$40,000 to the project and then appealed to the Congregation to be a part of the project.

Generous donations were received from 37 donors with the Foundation providing the final \$13,500.

During 2021, we also updated the Foundation Bylaws, wrote Guidelines and job descriptions for the Trustees. A project to update the Legacy Society records will continue into 2022. The Legacy Society consists of members of Westminster Church who have indicated they have remembered Westminster in their wills or estate plans.

The Foundation Trustees for 2022 are: Ron Wachter, President; Joyce Douglas, Secretary; Greg Hershberger, Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair; Mark Whitehead, Marketing Chair; Pat Leach, Mark Schorr, David Anderson and Erika Schafer.

## Volunteer Spotlight Emily Killham

From ushers and greeters to children and youth leaders and everyone else in-between, Westminster volunteers use their God-given gifts to serve others on a daily basis. These committed individuals make everything we do here at Westminster possible, and this month our spotlight is on another incredibly generous individual, Emily Killham.

Emily grew up at Westminster and was both baptized and confirmed here. She married Owen, her husband at Westminster in 2000 and resumed regular attendance when their eldest son was in preschool. They now have three children – Matthew, 14, Sammy 12, and Jonathan, 6 – and one ornery shorkie, Felix. Felix joined the Killham family during the pandemic and brought a great deal of joy with him.

Emily is led by her desire to serve God by serving others and strongly believes that volunteering is an integral part of being in community with one another. That certainty has led her to always being around the church in one way or another. Some of the roles she has filled include helping with youth Sunday and serving as a youth Elder. Currently, she is serving her third term as Elder.

She loves teaching Sunday School and VBS, and has gained valuable experiences while contributing in vital ways as a member of the A&P, Adult Ed, and Personnel committees. In addition, she worked on the vision and values task force and is always ready to offer an opinion.

In her free time, she works as the Director of Research and Insights at Perceptyx where she is paid to learn about how people experience their workplaces and teach managers and leaders what to do about it.

### Fun facts about Emily:

Favorite ice cream flavor?

Something with coffee or salted caramel and some nuts.



They are a Disney family through and through. There is no more magical vacation and they are always planning our next trip, even during a trip.

They love live music. She met Owen while he was playing in a band and they have spent most of their date nights and several vacations seeking out some of their favorite acts.

Emily indicates her absolute favorite thing about volunteering at Westminster has been watching families grow up. There is a real sense of continuity when you work with children. Kids she taught in preschool will be confirmed this year and young adults she connected with in Faith Village now lead the youth groups. Developing those relationships with little people and watching them grow into wonderful young people has been especially meaningful.

She believes that our community is only what we make of it, and that this community is one of the best because of all the individuals who give tirelessly to make it so. Many thanks to Emily and all of our wonderful volunteers.

If you are ready to find your place in building our community and are wondering where you fit in, consider volunteering to serve in our children or youth ministry. Whatever your interests or gifts are, we can use you. Complete the volunteer form here: <https://forms.gle/ffLjZbMzw2qjEUg6> to get started.

## Faith to Forest

### Who's Clapping?\*

During January and February Westminster has been one of 28 Lincoln congregations celebrating the role of trees in God's gift of creation. A big thank you to everyone who participated in our Faith to Forest observation whether through worship, education, or giving.

As part of this celebration 41 people donated a total of \$2325 for planting trees. 25% of this amount will be used by the Lincoln Parks Foundation Community Forestry Fund specifically for replanting Lincoln's tree canopy in public places. [https://www.lincolnparks.org/what\\_you\\_can\\_do/current-project-campaigns/community-forestry-fund.html](https://www.lincolnparks.org/what_you_can_do/current-project-campaigns/community-forestry-fund.html)

And 75% will be used in the Amazon rainforest to protect and restore primary forests and stabilize climate. <https://onetreepanted.org/collections/all/products/amazon-rainforest>

### Gratitude to these generous donors:

Marybell Avery  
Stan Campbell  
Rob and Sarah Baltensperger  
Linda Burchard  
Dorrie Gage  
Michael and Freda Gregg  
Gary and Glenna Haller  
Steve and Susie Hughes  
Lois Katt  
Martha Kingsbury  
Paul Korslund  
Nancy and Bob Leavitt  
Marilyn Maude  
Dale and Deb Minter  
Tom Pappas  
Laurel Van Ham  
Larry and Mary Peach  
Bob and Stanley Rediger  
Francy and Roy Scheele  
Bruce and Margaret Sheffield  
Jimmy and Carol Shelbourn  
Margaret and Jon Sprude  
Karen and Ray Stevens  
Stephen and Claire Titus  
Ron and Valery Wachter  
Tom and Janell Welstead



\* See Isaiah 55:12—The trees of the field will clap their hands!



## Whatchamacallit Wednesdays

Wednesday nights are a great opportunity for kids to get together with their friends and have fun learning about God. Kids from nursery age through high school meet from 5:30-7:30 PM.

“There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12 (NirV)

This month we will begin a new series called “You’ve Got Talent.” Just as many TV game shows are full of talent, so is the church. God has given all of us spiritual gifts, special talents that we can use to serve others. When we all come together to use our gifts for God, the Lord can bless our community and our world through the church.

Our Wednesday Youth Group will continue our discussions about friendship and peer pressure. We will explore the dangers of unresolved anger, how important it is to be able to say “I’m sorry,” how to stand firm in the face of peer pressure, and making wise choices. We will also hold our very first Chopped competition in March.

Wondering what to expect for dinner? The amazing Zanders have assembled a menu to help you out. Here is what will be on the table Wednesday nights in March.

### March 2nd

Spaghetti  
garlic bread  
apple slices

### March 9th

Chicken nuggets  
roasted red potatoes

### March 16th

Toasted cheese  
chips  
grapes

### March 23rd

Walking taco  
bananas



## Sunday Youth Group

The Sunday Youth Group meeting will focus on fellowship. Join your church friends to talk, play games, do homework together, or just hang out.

All Youth Group members are invited to attend both Wednesday evenings, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM. and Sunday evenings, 7:00 PM-8:30 PM.

## Sermon Set-up

Youth are invited to take part in a sermon set-up discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m., a session designed to deepen the worship experience.

We share donuts while we discuss the theme of the upcoming sermon and identify how it applies to our lives today. Youth are invited to attend service with their families or together in the balcony.

## Upcoming Events

westminister preschool  
Summer 2022

2110 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE  
[www.wpslincoln.org](http://www.wpslincoln.org)

**STEAM**  
June 1-3

**DOWN ON THE FARM**  
June 6-10

**CAMPING**  
June 13-17

**DINO DIG**  
June 20-24

**Young Artists**  
June 27- July1

**OLYMPICS**  
July 11-15

*Young Chefs and Bakers*  
July 18-22

**SUPERHEROES**  
July 25-29

**SPACE**  
August 1-5

**No programs the week of July 4-8**

Call or email to register or for more information:  
402-475-6702  
[rachelh@westministerlincoln.org](mailto:rachelh@westministerlincoln.org)

### PRESCHOOL SUMMER 2022

Sign up for some Educational Summer School fun!  
The link for the online registration form is: [https://schools.mybrightwheel.com/sign-in?redirect\\_path=forms/8ddb8eea-8259-467c-baa1-7d1e83312f52/self-service](https://schools.mybrightwheel.com/sign-in?redirect_path=forms/8ddb8eea-8259-467c-baa1-7d1e83312f52/self-service)



### Eggstravaganza – April 13

Our annual Easter egg hunt will take place on Wednesday, April 13. Children from preschool to 5th grade are invited to come for an evening of fun. The hunt begins at 5:30, followed by a group game. At 6, we will head to Cole Hall to enjoy an Easter themed dinner of eggs and pancakes. We will finish up with our usual lesson and make seed paper.

### Lorax Party – April 24

“Forests are the lifeline of our world. Without them, we lose extraordinary and essential functions for life on Earth” ~Meg Lowman, director of the Tree Foundation.

We are having a party and you are invited! As a part of the Faith to Forest program, the Children and Youth Committee and the Green at Heart Committee are hosting an intergenerational Lorax Party in Fellowship Hall, immediately following the service on April 24.

Our theme will be celebrating trees and exploring all the wonderful gifts they give to us. We will enjoy brunch, decorate cookies, learn what comes from a tree, and more. Watch for more details in the eVine and the Messenger and plan to take some time on April 24 to appreciate the beautiful world God created.





## VBS 2022: To Mars and Beyond

June 6-9, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM



Don't forget to get your kids registered for VBS this summer! We are going To Mars and Beyond to discover the wonders of God's universe as Voyagers on a journey through space. Registration is \$15/child (\$45 max/family)

before May 15. Register this month at <https://vbsmate.com/westminsterlincoln>.

Adults and youth are also invited to explore God's wonders along with the kids. Whatever your interest or gift is, we have a place for you! You can build sets, create science/craft projects before VBS, work directly with the kids, provide materials, serve snacks, perform skits, or something else entirely. Sign-up at <https://vbsmate.com/westminsterlincoln> or contact Trish Souliere at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or at 402-475-6702 to explore the options.

## Sundays in Faith Village

During March in Faith Village, we will examine the temptation of Jesus, look at the work of Jesus, today and tomorrow, discuss the parable of the fig tree, and discover how important it is to God to find and rescue the lost.

If you have not done so already, Please be sure to register your child. It is important for us to know if your child has allergies and how we can contact you in the event of an emergency. The registration form is here: <https://forms.gle/6bc1PSDmRBipe336A>.

## Youth Group Mission Trip

The Youth Group is planning to embark on a trip this summer to engage in mission work, build community, and have fun.

We will start our journey in Branson, where we will attend a performance at the Sight and Sound Theater in Branson, Missouri. From the bustling streets of Jerusalem to the raging Sea of Galilee, Jesus: Live Onstage is an action-packed musical stage adventure. This production features the greatest rescue story of all time as it comes to life on stage with massive sets, special effects, and live animals.

After the show, we will head to Ferncliff, near Little Rock, Arkansas. Ferncliff's Mission Team Program offers a variety of outreach experiences at their 1200 acre camp, which is known for its commitment to mission, sustainability and creative programming. Ferncliff is home to the 10,000 sq. ft. Disaster Assistance Center, the PC(USA) National Volunteer Call Center, and Solar School where people can learn how to install solar energy systems in low income communities.

On the way home, we will stop for a day of recreation at World of Fun in Kansas City, Missouri.

Have a youth interested in attending? Interested in chaperoning or joining in on the fun? Complete the interest form here <https://forms.gle/vPfCMtievLPTTVvj6> and watch the eVine and Messenger for more details.



## 2022 Easter Lily Donation Form

Share the joy of Easter! This year we will be ordering a reduced number of Easter lilies to place in the sanctuary for the recording of the Easter Sunday service. You can make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, to be displayed in the online bulletin for Easter Sunday. Or you may donate money to one of the Westminster Endowment Funds.

The donation level is \$16. Please make checks payable to Westminster and write **EASTER LILY** on the memo line. Donations must be received by **March 24** to be included in the order of worship.

Mail your check and the information specified below to:

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
**Attn: Joanne**  
**2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502**

\_\_\_ I/We would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward the purchase of an Easter lily/lilies.

\_\_\_ I/We would like to make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for one of the following Westminster Endowment Funds. Endowments may be any amount.

Please check one:

- \_\_\_ Mission and Outreach Endowment
- \_\_\_ Music and Worship Endowment
- \_\_\_ General Purpose Endowment
- \_\_\_ The Great Commission Endowment
- \_\_\_ Facilities Endowment
- \_\_\_ Education Endowment

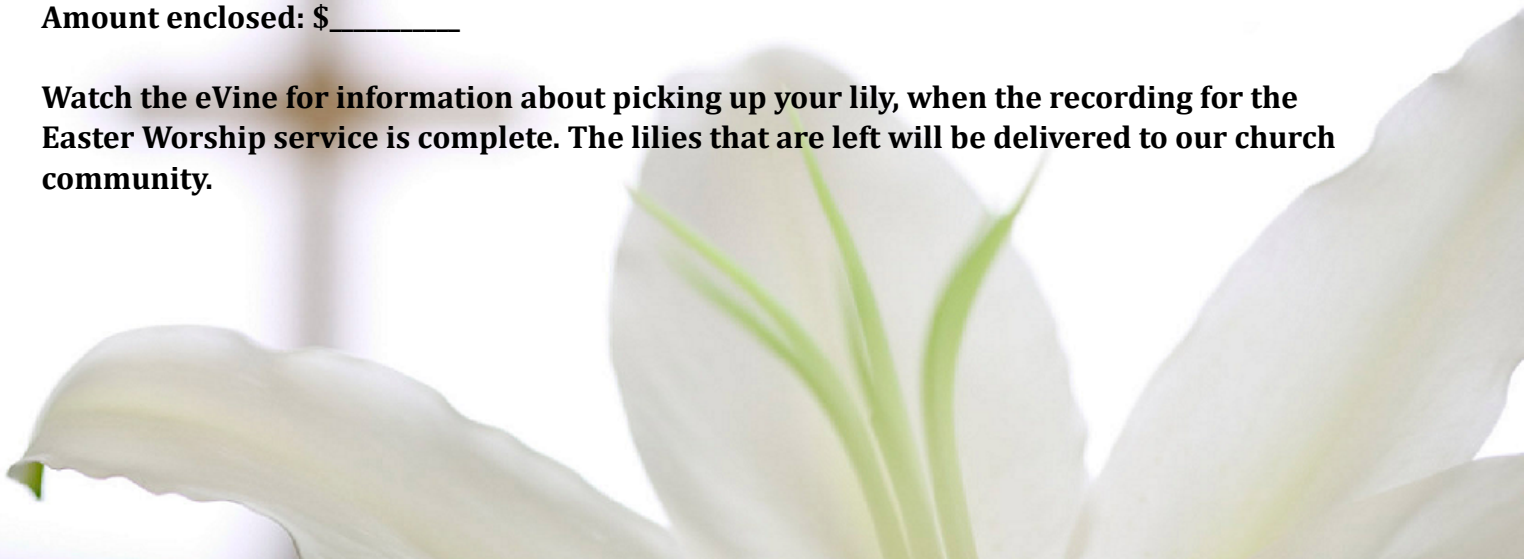
Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Watch the eVine for information about picking up your lily, when the recording for the Easter Worship service is complete. The lilies that are left will be delivered to our church community.





Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502

---

## **Westminster Calendar & Save the Dates:**

Wednesday, March 2 | Ash Wednesday

Sunday, April 10 | Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 14 | Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 15 | Good Friday

Sunday, April 17 | Easter Sunday

Friday, April 22 | Earth Day

Saturday, April 23, Innovation Campus | Lincoln's Earth Day Festival

Sunday, April 24 | Special Worship Service

Sunday, April 24 | Lorax Party

Sunday, April 24 through Sunday, May 22 | Creation Celebration

Friday, April 29, 150th Anniversary | Arbor Day

Sunday, May 1 | Lincoln Marathon

Sunday, May 8 | Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8 | Hostamania

Saturday, May 14 | Prairie Pines Walk and Picnic

Friday, June 17, 9:00 PM-11:00 PM | Family Movie Night

Sunday, June 19 | Father's Day

Saturday, July 9, 12:30 PM-2:30 PM | Disc Golf and Hot Dog Youth Group Event

July | Youth Group Mission Trip

July 24-29 | Synod School

August 7 | Westminster Pool Party