



THE MESSENGER

May 2022



Our Westminster Presbyterian Church Confirmation Class was confirmed during worship on Sunday, April 24. Congratulations to our 2022 Confirmands. Photographer, Allen Wachter.

Pictured Left to right: Ian Mulvaney, Teddie Kirkland, Thomas Bryson, Ben Schafer, Tucker Sup, Finn Killeen, Sienna Bergo, Rachel Hoffman, Emma Braswell, Norah Schmidt, Matthew Killham, Simone Gergen, And Skylar Bennett.

A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION FROM PASTOR CHRIS PETERS

What's your Westminster story?

Every person has a story to tell about “why” they do what they do. A teacher may love to tell their story about a past educator who inspired them to pursue an education degree. An accountant may love to tell their story about how they have helped people resolve financial questions and challenges in their lives.

As we move into a new vision for Westminster that leans on the strengths of our great history, I hope you will be able to find your own story to tell if asked the question, “Why Westminster?” Our Vision Task Force* has asked that question, and now we invite you on the journey for the next five years of our congregation’s future!

I hope you will join us at the Country Club of Lincoln on Thursday, May 5th from 6:30-8:00pm for a Vision presentation that will invite us all to share in one common vision as a church family. To be clear, this is not a fundraiser or an “ask,” but instead a time to connect with our church family, hear about our vision, and find inspiration in a call to action for our future.

In five years, I hope all active members of Westminster – not to mention countless lives touched in our Lincoln community – will be able to enthusiastically share our stories when asked, “Why Westminster?”

With Gratitude and Hope,
Pastor Chris

*The Task Force is comprised of the following Westminster members: Kelly Braswell, Michael Gregg, Emily Killham, Rob Otte, Rev. Chris Peters, Daniel Schafer, Allen Wachter, and Katie Zulkoski.

Staff Spotlight

Joanne Gabriel is our Executive Administrator at Westminster. A life-long Lutheran, she has adopted the PC/USA as her *second* favorite denomination. She started at WPC in August of 2019. In the past, Joanne has worked at two other churches and at the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Nebraska has been her home for eight years, but she has lived in Lincoln for only the last two-and-a-half of those years. She lives with her spouse, Greg, a Lutheran (ELCA) pastor. They have two adult sons who also live in Lincoln. Luverne, Minnesota is Joanne's hometown, and she likes to visit family there.

Joanne attended college at Concordia in Moorhead, Minnesota (the only ELCA Lutheran college named Concordia). Some of her favorite things are sewing quilts, reading books, walking around Holmes Lake, and listening to NPR.

Joanne enjoys working with the people of this congregation. Some of her tasks include, keeping the church calendar, updating membership records, and preparing bulletins for worship.

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.



Joanne Gabriel

Seeking Grounds Helpers

Have you been thinking about another way to contribute to our church? How about mowing? For the last 3 summers, Joan and Bill Roberts have been dedicated to making the church lawn look great. But now they need to hand it off to another volunteer.

The church will furnish the mower and gas. We just need someone to give a couple hours a week. If this is something you'd like to try, contact Tom Welstead from the Building and Grounds Committee or call JoAnne at the office.

Life Group 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. 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 Franci Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

History Buffs will be Resuming in June!

The History Buffs program will resume this Summer and Fall at 9:00am on the third Saturday of each month in the Adult Ed room. We will begin June 18th with a program presented by Bruce Sheffield about his Uncle, Glenn Cunningham, who broke the mile World Record in 1934. He also competed in the 1500 m. in the 1936 Berlin Olympics, all the more amazing because his legs were severely burned as a child.

Presbyterian Women Circle 4 | Monday, May 2 | 5 PM.

Hostess: Susie Hughes.

Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, May 3, at Ollie & Hobbs, SouthPointe | 11:30 AM

The establishment is across the walkway south of Marcus South pointe Cinema. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon, 402-290-5888, jimkinkennon@gmail.com. (The RSVP is very important.)

Faith and Cancer Support Group | Parlor | Tuesday, May 17 | 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.

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, May 18 | 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Book: The Dearly Beloved by Cara Wall.

Discussion leader: Katherine Govaerts.

Ladies Night Out | Tuesday, May 31 | 5:00 – 7:00 PM

We will be gathering at Daq Shack, Tuesday, May 31 | 5-7 PM. <https://www.drinkdaqshack.com>. As always, feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings.

*RSVP by Sunday, May 29th to robynu2@hotmail.com

World On A Plate

World on a Plate-Sudan is on Friday, May 20th in Fellowship Hall at 5:30.

The Birds and the Bees and People and Trees

Creation Celebration 2022

Playing Our Part in the Natural World, April 24 to May 22

ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS | 10:40 AM | LOUNGE

May 1 | Natural Resource Districts are unique to Nebraska. Our own Ray Stevens, an NRD director for ten years, will explain how their work impacts our quality of life and why that matters.

May 15 | Watch as Doug Tallamy, entertaining speaker and author of best-seller *Nature's Best Hope*, shows us a new approach to conservation that starts right in our own backyards.

May 22 | Mark Brohman, formerly Executive Director of the Nebraska Environmental Trust and now ED of Wachiska Audubon, will draw on his considerable experience and expertise to talk about our part in the natural world.

LIBRARY DISPLAY | APRIL 24 TO MAY 22 | GARDEN ROOM

Westminster's library boasts a fine collection of creation-centered books for all ages. Look over some old favorites and new additions and check out one or two to enjoy at home.

TREE-SERT COFFEE HOUR | SUNDAY, MAY 8 | 10:30 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

What's a tree-sert? It's a dessert featuring a tree-sourced ingredient. Think peach pie, lemon bars, apple crisp, chocolate cake (but not blueberry shortcake or pumpkin pie). Bring a tree-sert if you can, but enjoy the variety even if you can't. More reasons to love trees!

OUR BEAUTIFUL WORLD | SUNDAY, APRIL 24 TO SUNDAY, MAY 22

Enjoy an exhibit of nature photographs presented by the Lincoln Camera Club.

Because of YOU, *Westminster* is **green**  heart



Sundays in Faith Village

Sundays, 9:30-10:30

During May in Faith Village, we will be looking into what it means to follow Jesus.

VBS 2022: To Mars and Beyond

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



VBS 2022: To Mars and Beyond

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

VBS is almost here! 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 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 or at 402-475-6702 to explore the options.

Sermon Set-Up

Youth are invited to take part in a sermon set-up discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:15, a session designed to deepen the worship experience. We enjoy donuts and juice while discussing the theme of the upcoming sermon and identifying how it applies to our lives today. Youth are invited to attend service with their families or together on the balcony.

WESTMINSTER YOUTH

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.

"The Lord gives me strength and makes me secure. He has saved me." Psalm 118:14 (NirV)

We will finish our investigation of the heroic women of the Bible with Abigail and Lydia. We are going to top off the year by exploring one of the weird stories in the Bible, Balaam, the Donkey. The Bible is filled with strange occurrences and odd events, like the time Balaam talked to a donkey, and strangely enough, the donkey talked back to him. On his way to see the king of Moab, God put an angel in Balaam's path that sent his donkey going in different directions. Balaam beat the donkey for not obeying him, but God opened his eyes to see that Balaam's obedience was what was most important to God. We will have an end of the year celebration in Faith Village on May 18.

Our Wednesday Youth Group will volunteer at the People's City Mission on May 18 and take part in a Westminster Lincoln version of the ever popular Nailed It show. If you have not heard of it, it involves contestants who have no skills trying to make and decorate desserts that look like a professionally prepared example. The results are often funny (or alarming)! Of course, our challengers will be kitchen veterans, fresh from the Chopped: Feeding of the Five Judges competition. We will have our a cook out for our end of the year celebration beginning at 5:00 PM on May 22 at Pioneers Park.

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.

Youth Group Summer Mission Trip Friday, July 29 - Monday, August 1

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

We start 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.

Registration is \$450, scholarships available. Please register here to join the fun <https://forms.gle/eNtfWLT2EGRYGS5c6>.

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group Nailed It

May 15, 6:00 PM

Youth Group End of Year Party Pioneers Park

May 22, 5:00 PM

Family Movie Night

June 17, 9:00 PM-11:00 PM

Carol Joy Holling Youth Group Event July 9, 7:15 AM - 2:00 PM

The Youth Group will meet at the church on Saturday, July 9 at 7:15 to head up to Carol Joy Holling for a morning of high and low ropes course fun. We will have lunch together and be back at the church by 2:00.

Synod School

July 24-29

Westminster Pool Party

August 11

Messenger Articles & eVine Reminders:

All information for The Messenger is due to Tracy Hoffman at tracy@westminsterlincoln.org by the 18th of each month.

All announcements for The eVine are due to Tracy and Joanne Gabriel at joanne@westminsterlincoln.org by 5 pm on Monday of each week.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502

A graphic for "Hostamania" with a light green background and teal wavy borders at the top and bottom. On the left, there is a large green monstera leaf and a potted plant with heart-shaped leaves. On the right, there is a smaller potted plant with heart-shaped leaves. The text is centered in the middle.

HOSTAMANIA

Hostamania will be held at the church on May 8th!

This Mothers' Day plant sale is a fundraiser
for our Lohmen partnership

Thin landscapes that need it, and pick
up plants for gardens that need new additions

Call Tom Pappas at 402-20-4454, if you need
help or advice on what to donate.

Hostamania - Westminster's version of an awesome plant sale is again on Mother's Day; that's May 8. Members have inspected their landscapes and dug and donated plants that you might just need. Browse the selections on your way to the parking lot after you have enjoyed "tree-serts" in Fellowship Hall.