



THE MESSENGER

September 2022



**Blessing of the Backpacks 2022
& Our Ice Cream Social Event
Following Worship.**

We welcome you to Worship in the Sanctuary with us on Sundays at 9:30 am and/or worship virtually with us on our YouTube channel at <https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos>.

A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION FROM PASTOR CHRIS PETERS

Westminster and Friends,

September is a time of exciting goings-on in the life of the church as we start a season of new beginnings. As part of that time of new beginnings, I am excited to share the personal news that the Peters household expects to welcome a baby boy into our home and lives later this Fall! Many have already shared words of congratulations and encouragement, so please know Lauren and I are thankful for the kindness and sharing of our joy.

As a part of welcoming a child into our family and the Westminster family, I will be taking the family leave time our congregation has approved in my terms of call for most of November, December, and January – with the exception of Christmas week and preaching Christmas Eve. I am grateful for Personnel's support in that plan, and we will have a joyful Advent with some excellent guest leadership, special music programs, and a mix of new and well-loved intergenerational fun, learning, and service opportunities! More details will be shared in the coming weeks and months about that timeframe.

Along the lines of new beginnings, check out info on our new church-wide Wednesday night plans and schedule, Kick-offs for '22-'23 opportunities for all ages, and some exciting news from our music ministry (hint: turn the page to see an announcement about our Music Director position...).

With Immense Gratitude,

Pastor Chris

Messenger & 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.

Welcome Music Director, Ronnie Zanella!



It is with great excitement that we announce that Ronnie Zanella will be continuing his work with Westminster as our Music Director starting September 1st!

Since joining Westminster's staff in April 2022, Ronnie has excelled in an Interim role through leadership of our music ministries, work with staff, and creative input in our worship planning.

How did we get here?

This summer a wonderful group of musically-minded members worked as a Music Director Search/Hiring Committee, editing and clarifying our position description, and beginning a search for a candidate. This group was made up of Margo Gamet, Susie Hughes, Jim Kinkennon, Bob Schoettger, and Diana Wild, with Pastor Chris ex-officio. The group was advised by Personnel and joined by Personnel Chair, Emily Killham, for a formal interview and discussion with Ronnie soon after we clarified mutual interest in "removing the interim title."

What happens from here?

From here, work will continue to shift transitional items that Ronnie and John Ross owned or led together this summer, with Ronnie taking lead on those items going forward. Ronnie will continue to work with us at 15hrs/wk. Ronnie is already planning some wonderful plans for Advent and other upcoming services.

We encourage members and friends to say a word of gratitude to Ronnie the next time you see him. Also, you may consider joining our choir as a way to support our excellent music ministries at Westminster. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights from 6:00-8:00pm in the sanctuary.

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Hearts & Hands | Church Library

Wednesdays at 1:30 - 3:00 PM and/or 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.

Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, September 6 | 11:30 AM

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, September 6, at Granite City. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888, or by email: jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Faith and Cancer Support Group | Library | Tuesday, September 20 | 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 Bruce Sheffield at 402-783-0394 or Janice Rohwedder at 402-730-5568.

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, September 21 | 1:00 p.m. in Lounge

Book: The Book of Lost Names by Kristen Hammel

Discussion leader: Kathy Anderson

History Buffs | Naval Aviators Experience in the Middle East

Saturday, September 24 at 9 am

Join us for a History Buffs presentation with Capt. (Ret.) William E. Powers and LCDR (Ret.) Andrea M Powers both in the United States Navy. They will be speaking about their military experiences in the middle East.

Ladies' Night Out - Tuesday, September 27 | 5-7 PM

LNO will be gathering at the Country Club of Lincoln (our hostess is Susan Jackson); 3200 S 24th St. As always, feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings. RSVP to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com. Text or call Robyn 937-935-6858.

Kick-Off Sunday: September 11, 2022 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Fall activities resume at Westminster on Sunday, September 11. This is your opportunity to find out what is coming up! Here is what you can expect:

- Committees and Life Groups will provide a snapshot of their upcoming activities.
- Food trucks will have lunch available for purchase
- The bounce house will be set-up
- Games will include corn hole and the balloon toss
- Live music provided by The Rising
- Photo booth
- Craft stick picture frames
- VR Game Truck – The VR Game Truck is a new activity this year, and will feature the Jesus VR experience. Designed to bring you closer to Christ than ever before, this technology will transport you back in time to witness the life of Christ first hand. With 360 videos, you will be at the center of the film and can choose which direction to look, making it a truly immersive experience.

Kick-Off Sunday promises to have something for everyone, so mark your calendar for September 11 and stay to celebrate the start of the new season with your Westminster family.

Nursery/Faith Village

September 11 9:30AM-10:30AM

The new year begins for Faith Village September 11.

Wednesday Nights

September 14 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Wednesday activities will begin again on September 14 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Kids from nursery age through high school are invited to join us for dinner, fellowship, discussion, and fun.

Youth Group: Carol Joy Holling

September 18, 1:00PM-6:00PM

Join us at Carol Joy Holling for group building activities on the high ropes course. Cost is \$10 per youth with scholarships available. Questions? Contact Trish at (402) 570-0163 or trish@westminsterlincoln.org. Register here <https://forms.gle/g2spUqGMnDQ9oqST6>

Youth Group Fall Retreat: October 7-9, watch for more information.

**Church Life is having an all
Westminster Baby Shower for Pastor
Lauren and Pastor Chris.
More details to come!**



Presbyterian Women and PW at Westminster

***Women are better together when we are tied together in love.
Please stop by our PW table on September 11.***



Did you know that **every** woman who is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is automatically a member of the Presbyterian Women (PW)? There are no requirements, no dues, no pies! (In the 1950's every PW Circle was required to furnish 60 pies for the Westminster Pie Booth at the Nebraska State Fair.)

Although Presbyterian Women (PW) at Westminster centers our work in groups of women called "Circles" who use the yearly Bible study, there are many ways for you to participate in PW if Circles are "not your thing."



PRAY for the many projects that PW supports with their funds and the work of their hands—clinics, childcare centers, well projects, and local women's shelters.

WEAR black on Thursdays to stand in silent solidarity to end gender-based violence. WEAR orange on the 25th of each month to bring awareness about ending human Trafficking.

PW: It's not just Circles and Bible study. It's for every Presbyterian woman.

Our Annual Westminster Used Book Sale!

Sunday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 18



Westminster Book Sale

The annual Westminster Book Sale will be held from Sunday, Sept. 11 to Sunday, Sept. 18.

Do you have books to donate? Please bring them to Fellowship Hall. The East door of the church is open from 10 am to 2 pm during the week, or call the church office at 402-475-6702 to arrange a time.

Questions? Call Martha Kingsbury at 402-304-7052.

Upcoming Events & Save the Dates

Spooktacular October 26, 5:30-7:30 PM

Spooktacular is coming soon! On Wednesday, October 26 at 5:30, cowboys, princesses, and creatures of the night are invited to slither, shuffle, or ride on down to Westminster to play games, trick or treat, and have a frightfully fun evening.

Here are a few of the activities you can look forward to: Trick-or-treating, the Bounce House and a Costume Contest/Photo Booth And more!

You can help us make this event possible in a couple of ways:

- 1) Donation bags of candy, packaged snacks, pencils, and/or any small handouts for the children. Look for collection buckets at the top of the steps by the East entrance.
- 2) Wear a costume and decorate your car trunk with a fun theme then pass out treats to the children.
- 3) Volunteer to staff a game or craft table.

Let Trish know at trish@westminsterlincoln.org if you are interested in sponsoring a trunk or volunteering to staff a game or craft table. Contact Stacy Graham babyruth19@hotmail.com or Sarah Baltensperger at sarah.baltensperger@gmail.com with any questions.



CROP Walk | Save the Date: October 9

“Hunger is the greatest health risk in the world, killing more than AIDS, Malaria, and TB combined,” said Reverend Gina Walsh-Minor, Rector Trinity Episcopal Church. “More than 925 million people, including 40 million Americans, don’t have enough to eat.”

In 2017, an estimated 1 in 8 Americans were food insecure, equating to 40 million Americans including more than 12 million children. It is important to know that hunger and food insecurity are closely related, but distinct concepts. Hunger refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort, while food insecurity refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the level of the household. There is no single face of food insecurity. It impacts every community in the United States.

The Children and Youth and Missions Committees invite you to support this year’s CROP Walk in its efforts to combat hunger. If you would like to participate as a walker, you can join the team by going online to register at: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/westminster-presbyterian-2> and click on the register button. Donations to the CROP Hunger Walk will benefit the global hunger fighting ministry of Church World Services. Everyone is encouraged to support this important cause by coming and donating time or money at the CROP Hunger Walk.

The Lincoln CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday October 9.

CROP Hunger Walks were started in 1947 by Church World Services to help Midwest farm families share their grain with hungry families in post WWII Europe and Asia.

Westminster's Green at Heart ministry invites members to share what they see in their travels which support renewable energy and ecology.

Recently in Scotland, Jimmy and Carol Shelbourn saw a "sea" of wind turbines" in the North Sea, providing electricity to The U.K. grid. Wind above the North Sea is quite reliable.

Also seen were the massive reforestation efforts by the Scottish government so that any logging becomes sustainable. And strawberry farms now feature strawberries planted in table height soil containers, under translucent tarping as a greenhouse.

This extends the season for the teatime essential strawberry, while also preventing the harvesters from back injurious stooping.

A Big Day at Our Sister Church

Sunday, October 9th will be a big day at our sister church in Lohmen, Germany—a celebration of Pastors Brigitte and Michael Schleinitz as they retire from the ministry. And Westminster will be there, delivering some mementos of our sister church relationship—a Peggy Karr art glass plate, a Westminster pew Bible, and a Westminster hymnal.

Bob and Nancy Leavitt, Tom and Laurel Van Ham Pappas, John Ross, Dave and Sue Shamblin will be Westminster's in-person delegation. EVERYONE ELSE is invited to join Westminster's "in-writing" delegation by personalizing the hymnal. You may simply sign your name or find the page of a favorite hymn and add a few words there.

This is for everyone in the Westminster family, whether or not you've been able to participate in a visit, so please take a few minutes to add your name to the celebration. You'll find the autograph party at the Lohmen table in the Garden Room on Sundays September 11 and 18.

Westminster Foundation Moving Forward

The sudden loss of Foundation President Ron Wachter has been difficult for the Foundation Trustees as well as the Congregation. Ron was a quiet leader and moved several projects forward. He is missed.

At the meeting held on August 10, 2022, Allen Wachter was elected Foundation Trustee to serve the remaining term of his father. This action will be ratified by the Congregation at the next Annual Meeting. Other actions at this meeting included election of Officers to serve until our next Organizational Meeting: President—Joyce Douglas; Secretary—Erika Schafer; Treasurer—Greg Hershberger. Greg Hershberger continues as Chair of the Finance Committee and Pat Leach as Chair of the Marketing Committee.

The assets of the Foundation as of August 9th, are \$3,572,780. Our portfolio is invested for the long term so market swings are noted but not of great concern. Since the Foundation is for the benefit of Westminster Presbyterian Church, we discussed the current elevator situation and cash needs associated with that repair. Even though an insurance claim has been filed, we are expecting the Foundation will need to assist in the payment for this repair.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of generations of members, the Foundation continues to grow. Estate planning often contains funds to the Foundation as well as specific donations to funds of interest to a member. In the last ten years, the Foundation has grown from \$2,216,220 to the current amount of \$3,572,780 which in simple terms is growth of \$1,356,560. The exciting piece is not only the increase in assets over the ten years but the fact the Foundation as paid \$1,359,940 to the Church for repairs and other expenses.

If you would like to know more about the Westminster Foundation, please contact Joyce Douglas or Greg Hershberger.

WATER DOGS

The Water Dogs event has been rescheduled for September 15. Have the best lawn, and lowest water bill, in your neighborhood this summer! Join Tom Pappas and Sarah Browning, Nebraska Extension Educator, for a fun hands-on demonstration that will save you money on your next water bill!

To register: Call Tom at (402) 202-4454

More Information: Sarah Browning
Nebraska Extension in Lancaster County
sarah.browning@unl.edu
(402) 441-7180



Are you an Amazon shopper? Do you use Amazon Smile?

Did you know you can support Westminster while shopping on AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile donates 0.5 percent of your Amazon purchases to WPC, if you have selected Westminster as your selected charity.

It's simple to do...

Go to smile.amazon.com and choose Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE. Then start shopping. Amazon Smile will do the rest!



HEAR! HEAR!

There are now two ways for you to enhance your listening experience in the Westminster Sanctuary.

You can use the hand-held devices which are available in the usher's closet. These have been available for several years.

Or you can use your Smartphone to connect directly to the Church's audio system. This new program is a special wi-fi system, called Listen Everywhere.

If your hearing aids have Blue Tooth and can be controlled by your Smartphone the system will work through your hearing aid earpieces.

If your hearing aids do not connect with your smart phone, you will have to use ear buds that are compatible with your phone in place of your hearing aids.

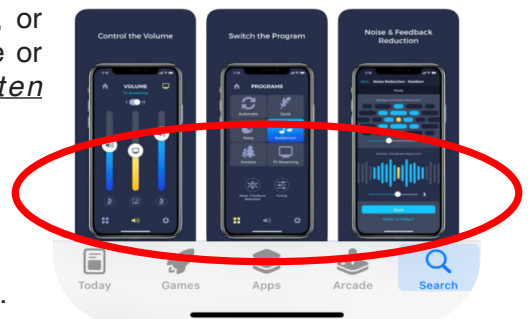
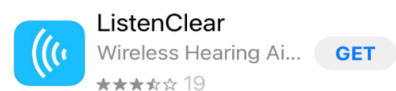
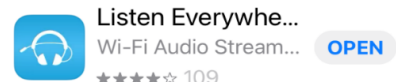
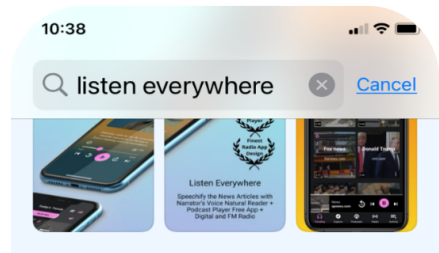
The following steps will turn your Smartphone into an assisted hearing device.

1) Download the free App

At your home, or anywhere you have an Internet Connection, download the free Listen Everywhere. If you own an iPhone, go to the App Store and search for the Listen Everywhere app, OR, if you own an Android phone (Samsung, Sony, HTC, or LG), go to either Google Play, the Samsung Galaxy Store or the Amazon AppStore and search for the Listen Everywhere app.

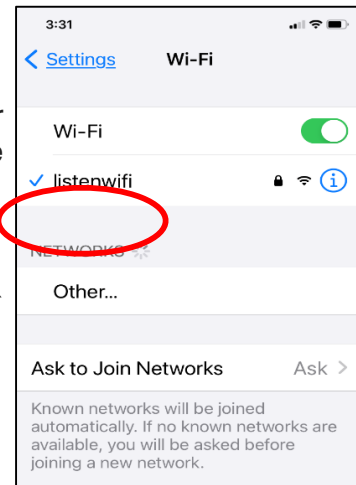
2) Click on "Get" and then "Open."

The Listen Everywhere app will download on to your phone.



2. Connect to the Church's Wi-Fi System.

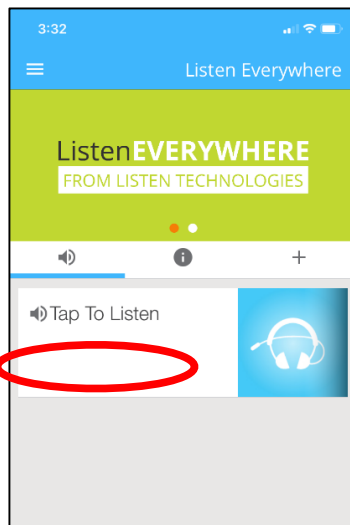
When you are in the Sanctuary, go to “Settings” on your Smartphone, then click on “Wi-Fi”. You should see the ***listenwifi*** connection listed. Click on it.



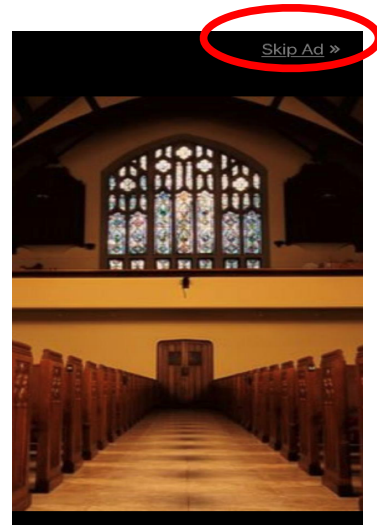
The first time you connect, you will be asked for the password which is the same as the wi-fi connection ***listenwifi***. After you initially sign on, you will not be asked again for the password.

3. Open the Listen Everywhere app that you downloaded at home.

You will see a screenshot of the church Sanctuary. After 15 seconds, click on “**Skip Ad**” (which will appear in the upper right corner).



This will bring you to the Listen Everywhere application. Tap on the “Tap to Listen” bar and you will be connected to the Church’s sound system so you can hear the speakers and the music.



Please be sure to bring the headphones or ear buds that came with your smartphone so you can listen without disturbing others.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



Presbyterians in the Park 2022 was held on Sunday, August 28. It was a beautiful day to worship outside. Westminster members & visitors brought their blankets & lawn chairs and gathered for worship in the Park.

Immediately after worship, they enjoyed a potluck lunch in the Auld Pavilion. Church Life provided fried chicken, rolls and drinks and everyone brought a side dish or desert to share.

