



THE MESSENGER

October 2022



Presbyterians in the Park 2022



Westminster Choir



Children's Chat & Blessing of the Backpacks



Hearts & Hands Life Group

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

Westminster and Friends,

In my work as a pastor, I am often thinking about words. Those range from the words of a sermon, to the words of a Messenger article, to which words of care to say before picking up the phone or walking into a hospital room. I also wonder at times about the words we commonly use that we might call “churchy” language – words such as calling or predestination or fellowship or narthex or stewardship – words that have deep meaning for some of us but can also be a bit inward-facing to our neighbors. Words can welcome and include our neighbors, or they can create small barriers to community if we don’t define them or consider faithful alternatives...

Considering the words we use and how we use them, this year’s “Stewardship” season Messenger letter will be more of a glossary of words you’ll hear around church this month, with a short reflection at the end.

Stewardship - The term stewardship originates from an old term that quite literally means “house guardian,” or someone in charge of a particular place, task, or resource. As Christians we see stewardship in two ways. First, it’s our task as people of faith to be “good stewards” of all that is good in this life, as we see the good as a gift from God. Second, we use the term Stewardship Season to describe a time of the year where we consider our finances, our time, our talents, our commitments to our church family, and prepare to make a pledge. Which takes us to definition two...

Pledge – In short, a pledge is a commitment of finances, time, or talents that a household or individual makes during our stewardship season as we look toward our ministry in a new year. A “pledge” at times is thought of as one’s financial contribution only, but I like for us to see it in a more holistic manner of our overall giving.

Tithe – This word means “one tenth.” In the Hebrew Scriptures, the idea of giving 1/10th of what one has back to God started with Abram and was later a part of the Hebrew law of God shared by Moses. Giving 1/10th of all one had to God was seen as the starting point rather than the end goal!

Narrative Budget – Ok, this is a new one. You’ll hear a lot more about this throughout October, but here’s a preview: This year as a part of Stewardship Season, we will be sharing a document that helps frame our 2023 budget dreams in a way that tells the story of our giving and our budget rather than just putting a number out there. A narrative budget helps us better understand giving in terms of faith and impact.

One of my favorite verses that connects to this upcoming season of giving is 2 Corinthians 9:7, which teaches, “each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” God loves a cheerful giver. With all of the transformational ministries and big strides forward we have made in 2022, I hope you will cheerfully decide how you might give of your time, talents, and finances in 2023. We have a bright year and a bright future ahead, Westminster!

With Gratitude,

Pastor Chris

Presbyterian Women and PW at Westminster. It's For Every Presbyterian Woman!

Presbyterian Women (PW) has begun another exciting year of fellowship, mission, and Bible study. All women at Westminster are welcome to join a Circle at any time of the year and participate in this year's Bible study titled "Celebrating Sabbath." There are daytime and evening meeting options. Contact: Linda Burchard (402) 477-5572. What else can any woman at Westminster do and be a part of PW?

PURCHASE gift cards for local women's shelters. **PICK UP** a bookmark with PW recommended books.

WRITE a thank you note to a woman who has nurtured your faith (men can do this, too).



Honorary Life Membership

At the PW Fall Kick-Off on August 27, Martha Kingsbury was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. This is the highest honor given to a Presbyterian Woman. The special silver pin and certificate recognize Martha's faithful dedication to PW, her leadership of our Westminster library and organization of the annual book sale, and her support over many years to the church music program. Congratulations!

STEWARDSHIP THANKS WESTMINSTER

2023 Stewardship Timeline

October 2 – Connect with Stewardship Committee Members and Pick-Up Packet In-Person after Church

Week of October 3 – Packets mailed to members

October 16 – Debut of 2023 Stewardship Video

October 30 – Commitment Sunday! Our Stewardship Committee invites you to bring your pledge and return envelopes to church to place in the Giving Basket during worship. There will also be generic cards available for those who need more time to determine what or how to give and for those who prefer to mail in their cards.

December – Thank You and Commitment reminder letters sent out. To help with 2023 Budget Planning, please prayerfully consider and respond at your earliest convenience.

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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 Franci Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, October 4 | 11:30 AM

Lunch Bunch will be at The Garage at 5551 S. 48th St. on Tuesday, October 4, 11:30 A.M. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon, 402-290-5888, or by email: jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

History Buffs presents a Walking Tour

Saturday, October 15 at 9 am | 1st Street & West Calvert Street

What lies beneath Wilderness Park? Join us as we go back in time to explore the remains of Epworth Lake Park, the largest summer gathering place in the US from 1903-1940. Read more about this on page 5.

Faith and Cancer Support Group | Library | Tuesday, October 18 | 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, October 19 | 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

October's meeting is a special one for Prairie Readers. Pat Leach, Director of Lincoln City Libraries, will be with us to talk about books. Those of you who have heard Pat know what a fine presenter she is; she never disappoints. The fact that she is a member of Westminster makes this event even more special. All are welcome.

Ladies' Night Out - Thursday, October 27 | 5-7 PM

October Ladies' Night Out is scheduled for Thursday, October 27 from 5-7 PM, at Florio's Italian Restaurant & Grill, 7300 S 13th St, Lincoln, NE 68512. 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.



Spooktacular October 26, 5:30-7 PM

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. Some of the activities you can look forward to are Trick-or-treating, Bounce House, Photo Booth, Food Truck AND MORE!!

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

1. Please consider 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 or table inside with a fun theme then pass out treats to the children.
3. Volunteer to staff a game or craft table.

Vehicles need to arrive by 4 pm to find a spot and put the finishing touches on your decorations.

Contact Sarah Baltensperger sarah.baltensperger@gmail.com or Stacy Graham babyruth19@hotmail.com with any questions. Sign up online here <https://forms.gle/zywWi4NeFDnpRmTMA>, in the Garden Room, or call the church at 402-475-6702.





History Buffs presents a Walking Tour: The Ghosts of Epworth Lake Park Saturday, October 15 at 9 am | 1st Street & West Calvert Street

In 1903, the Methodist Church Epworth League established a 32-acre resort and gathering place in a pleasant, wooded meadow along Salt Creek. It would become the largest summer gathering place west of the Mississippi. People would come from surrounding states to hear speakers including William Jennings Bryan, Billy Sunday, Carrie Nation, Enrico Caruso, and other famous personalities in an auditorium that could accommodate over 5000 people. There were 500 campsites, a lake for boating, hotels, grocery stores, even a post office. But by the 1940's, the Park was gone. It was swallowed up by Wilderness Park.



Today, many hikers and cyclists follow trails where Epworth Lake Park once stood. But many hidden traces and the history of the Park endure. On Saturday, October 15th, Steve Larson will lead a walking tour where the remains and the ghosts of Epworth Park will be revealed. The tour begins at the original entrance to the Park located at 1st and West Calvert Streets.

Season of Creation

Many Christian Churches celebrate the Season of Creation during October, coinciding perfectly this fall with Lincoln's Community Climate Awareness Week, October 6-11. Free public events feature Deke Arndt, NOAA's Chief Climate Monitoring Scientist; Ali Kahn, MD, Dean of the College of Public Health at UNMC; and Martha Shulski, Nebraska State Climatologist.

Understanding the science and consequences of climate change are critical to guiding our faithful response to this critical issue. Take advantage of these activities to deepen your own understanding and response!

Thursday, October 6 | 3-5:00pm | Hardin Hall on East Campus

Deke Arndt - *Climate, Climate Change and Big Weather: How are they related and how do we know?*
Zoom link and more details here [UNL website: https://snr.unl.edu/aboutus/when/seminars.aspx#seminar7](https://snr.unl.edu/aboutus/when/seminars.aspx#seminar7).

Friday, October 7 | 9-5:00pm | Nebraska Innovation Campus

Nebraska Youth Climate Summit - Full day of events, breakfast and lunch provided
Free registration (required) and more details here [Nebraska Youth Climate Summit: https://www.nebraskaipl.org/nebraska_youth_climate](https://www.nebraskaipl.org/nebraska_youth_climate).

Sat., October 8 | 11-12:30pm | Aldersgate United Methodist Church (84th and South)

Deke Arndt - *Pulse of the Planet: Monitoring, Understanding and Working within our Changing Climate*. Free and open to the public.

Tuesday, October 11 | 7:00pm | Lied Center

E.N.Thompson Forum o Global Issues
Ali Kahn, MD - *Putting the Public Back in Public Health: A Global Perspective*
Free tickets (required) and more details at Lied Center Ali Kahn.

The Great Spiritual Migration October 10th | 6-8 pm CT via Zoom



Author | Speaker | Activist

Released in 2016, Brian McLaren's book *The Great Spiritual Migration* offered an insightful look at how Christianity and other organized religions can become places where people learn how to love God, themselves, others, and the earth. Join us for a conversation with Brian McLaren to uncover how the messages from this book apply to where we find ourselves in 2022.

Brian D. McLaren is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. He is a core faculty member of The Living School and podcaster with *Learning How to See*, which are part of the Center for Action and Contemplation.

Register here: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejc74iz0b352647f&llr=av47avbab>

Prayer Requests

For prayer requests, concerns and praises, please send email to: prayer@westminsterlincoln.org. Requests will be forwarded to the Prayer Ministry Group.

Your Mission/Outreach Teams Thanks You for Your Support!

Thanks to Mission & Outreach for a night of service packing Presbyterian Disaster Assistance School Kits, and thank you to WPC Children & Youth for the hard workers! We delivered the completed school kits to our friends at Good Shepherd Presbyterian. The kits will be added to the shipment that is headed to Ferncliff Disaster Assistance Center.



Save The Date! Advent Workshop December 4, 2022 at 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Advent, the beautiful season of candlelight, reflection and expectation, is just around the corner. Advent, which means “coming” or “arrival”, is a time of joyful anticipation while we wait for the birth of Jesus. We invite you to dive into the holiday season with your Westminster family at the Advent Workshop. We will be gathering with the anticipation of great joy on the second Sunday of Advent, immediately after church to renew friendships and enjoy cookies, fellowship, and crafts.

Adult Education Sunday Bible Study “The Lesser Known Reformers”

During the month of October, the focus of Adult Education will be on the Reformation. We have two tracks-- October 9-23, an historical discussion of the “Lesser Known Reformers” – Wycliffe, Hus, Tyndale, Cranmer, Wishart, and Knox – led by Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn. And the second track on October 9-30, led by Rev. Ellen Davis, on the biblical bases for Luther’s “sola scriptura, sola fides, sola gratia” theme.

The class will meet in the parlor at 10:45 a.m.

Oct. 9	10:45	“The Pre-Reformers: Wycliffe and Hus”
Oct. 16	10:45	“The English Reformation: Tyndale and Cranmer”
Oct. 23	10:45	“The Scottish Reformation: Wishart and Knox”

Second Track

Oct. 16	Sola Christus – Christ: Our Only Mediator – 2 Corinthians 5:11-21
Oct. 23	Sola Gratia – Grace: Our Only Method – Ephesians 2:1-10
Oct. 30	Sola Fide – Faith: Our Only Means – Romans 3:19-28; Soli Deo Gloria – Glorifying God: Our Only Ambition – Romans 15:1-13

A second discussion, led by Pastor Ellen Davis, will center around “The Reformation in Scripture.” Historically, the Protestant Reformers based their theological understanding of God, Jesus Christ and faith on five foundational beliefs: Sola Scriptura, by scripture alone, Sola Fide, by faith alone, Sola Gratia, by grace alone, Solus Christus, through Christ alone, and Soli Deo Gloria, glory to God alone. Each had scriptural foundation and guided the Reformers as they followed the Holy Spirit in living out the principles of their faith.



Wednesday Night LiNK

Don't miss LiNK Wednesdays at Westminster! Wednesday activities continue from 5:30-7:30 PM. Kids from nursery age through high school are invited to join us for dinner, community, discussion, and fun.

LiNK* Nights are our new Wednesday Night opportunities to connect – “link” – together as a congregation! Why LiNK? LiNK is a play on “Westminster Lincoln,” (LNK = Lincoln) in addition to serving as a reminder of our call to “link” or connect together as Christ's people!

We'll mix nights of age-focused and intergenerational activities throughout September, October, and November 2022!

Westminster Music Announcements

October 23 | A string chamber orchestra (around 10 players) are coming from Union College to play for our service directed by Ramon Araujo.

October 30 | A wind symphony group (around 25 players) are coming from Union College to play for our service directed by Ramon Araujo.

November 6 at 3pm | A concert by Nebraska Brass. Watch the eVine for more details.

November 29 | A doctoral student recital. Let me know if you want me to contact the student and ask her to send more info about that, together with a flyer (I know she has done one already).

Sunday, December 4 | A Christmas Cantata will be held during worship. We will have strings, handbells, choir, and organ, with a few invited guest musicians. This service will be different, without a normal sermon and with only music and some short reflections. The Cantata is called "A Festival of Lessons and Carols", by Hal Hopson.



How many Presbyterians does it take to change 50+ lightbulbs in our sanctuary?!?

We didn't ask the denominations of the work crew, but the real point is that we have now replaced nearly all lightbulbs in the sanctuary with LEDs, with just a few to go very soon! That's Westminster being Green @ Heart. It also already looks a lot better and brighter, and should end that annoying flickering we get some Sundays.





Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



The Westminster Youth Group did a phenomenal job on the high ropes course at Carol Joy Holling during their trip at the end of September.

