



THE MESSENGER

January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023



**The church building and office will be closed on
January 2 for New Year's Day and January 16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.**

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>.

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Westminster friends,

For many years, the Adult Education Committee has planned a Forum for the Sundays in January we call "Community Conversations." Each Sunday features a leader from some arena in the public sphere. We have featured politicians, judges, School superintendents and others. All sessions begin at 10:45 and end at 11:30. [There is no session for January 1.] Please plan to join us in the Lounge each of those four Sundays at 10:45 a.m. This year we will feature the topic:

"When Public Decisions Affect Private Lives"

On Sunday, January 8, we will welcome Rev. Dr. Carl Eskridge, who also is preaching during the worship hour (as he did on November 27). Carl has served as a legal mediator, served on the Lincoln City Council, and has retired from the State of Nebraska Office of Public Counsel. Carl is a great communicator and public servant who cares deeply for the community of Lincoln.

On Sunday, January 15, our guest will be Steve Smith, Director of Communications at Civic Nebraska. Steve is a correspondent and speaker with more than 25 years of award-winning writing, editing, media relations, and public relations experience.

On either Sunday, January 22 or 29, (TBA) we will welcome J.J. Wilkins, a Lincoln Public Schools Elementary Principal who serves at Prescott School, which is partnered for mission outreach with Westminster Presbyterian Church.

On the other Sunday 22 or 29, (TBA) we will feature a similar speaker, yet to be determined. But the Adult Education Committee will have someone stellar to address the topic.

Jimmy Shelbourn, Stated Supply Associate Pastor



Rev. Dr. Carl Eskridge



**Steve Smith, Director of Communications
at Civic Nebraska**



Principal J.J. Wilkins

**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, January 3 | 11:30 a.m. at Famous Dave's

Lunch Bunch will meet at Famous Dave's, 2750 Pine Lake Rd., on January 3 at 11:30 A.M. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888, or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

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

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, January 18 | 1:00 p.m. in Lounge

The Book for January is "*The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*" by Allison Pataki.

Discussion Leader: Kathryn Govaerts.

Ladies' Night Out - Tuesday, January 17 | 5-7 PM

The January Ladies' Night Out will be held at Mi Tierra North (where La Paloma was located at Holdrege and 84th); 8320 Northwoods Drive. This is the newest location for Mi Tierra. 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.

LiNK

Wednesday nights are a great opportunity for Children, Youth & Adults to get together and have fun learning about God. LiNK is another opportunity for us to connect – or “link” – together as a congregation on Wednesday nights!

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.

New Year's Resolution

It's hard to change a habit of many years, but this one would be worth the challenge. It's a win-win for both your planet and your pocketbook.

Top Ten Reasons to STOP Letting Your Car Idle

- An idling car releases the same volume of emissions as a moving car.
- If you are stopped at a light or in a drive through for over 10 seconds, it's more economical to turn off the engine, then restart it.
- Driving warms up your engine twice as fast as idling.
- Easing into your drive warms the cabin of your car faster than idling.
- It does not take more fuel to turn off the engine and then restart it.
- Frequent restarts are not hard on your engine and battery. This was true only with early model cars.
- The cost of fuel consumed in idling can exceed the cost of frequent restarting by 300% to 500%.
- The occupants of an idling car are breathing any exhaust that leaks inside.
- Asthma, heart disease, chronic bronchitis, and cancer are linked to the pollutants released in tailpipe emissions.
- God has given us minds and consciences and an imperative to take care of Creation. Minimizing unnecessary idling is a small but important behavior that's worth considering as we make strides to responsibly care for Creation.

The onset of winter may be the hardest time of year to initiate this practice, but then again, it might be just right.

These ideas are attributed to the Environmental Defense Fund except for the last one— which comes from the Bible.

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.

Join Others in Reading the Bible in a Year

Is there a book that you've heard selections from but haven't read from cover to cover? Is there a book that you read once but would like to read again for a deeper look? This is your opportunity. Join with fellow Westminster-ites in small groups to read the Bible in the year 2023.

With Pastor Chris' guidance an NRSV Study Bible has been selected that is divided into daily readings starting with Genesis on January 1 and ending with Revelations on December 31. This is not a daily reading list. In this study Bible, there are directed readings with suggestions to help you meditate, contemplate, and pray.

Marijane England will be the facilitator and serve as a resource for group leaders.

If you have questions, contact her at marijane.england@gmail.com.



Matt Talbot Kitchen Family Service Opportunity

If you are looking for an opportunity for your family to serve this year, sign your family up to serve at Matt Talbot here

<https://forms.gle/gqmdsmiWbdRqVJJW8>.

Serving is simple – arrive at 5:00 pm to learn the ropes of setting out food and serving, then work as a team to serve from 5:30 until 6:30 p.m., and then help with basic clean-up before wrapping up around 6:45.

This is a great opportunity for a family or two households to partner together to follow the call of Jesus to “love our neighbor.”

Please contact Susie Hughes (skh@eskays.com) with questions.

Green@Heart

Westminster folks are doing such a great job of recycling, setting their thermostats, etc. to take care of our planet. But our individual lifestyle efforts are a drop in the bucket compared to what needs to happen in the next decade or two. To make a real difference we urgently need to make changes on a larger scale, moving the powers that be in government and the corporate world. We need to be advocates for what we believe in!

Many of you have mentioned not knowing how to do this. It's really not that hard, and here's your chance for an excellent tutorial from the comfort of your own home!

Advocacy 101: Be an effective advocate for matters you care about. Tuesday, January 3rd, 7-8 pm. No registration needed. Get the Zoom link at <https://www.firstplymouth.org/cat>

THANK YOU! Because of YOU, Westminster is Green@Heart.



Styrofoam Recycling Update:

The collection point by the east entry will be in place throughout the month of January. Failed lights too. This is our fifth year and it's possible that packaging, that we take back to Plastilite in Omaha, has been here before and reused. Many thanks for participating.

Advent Workshop

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the Advent Workshop. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree Bake Sale! Because of your generosity, we had \$601 available to bring the Christmas spirit of giving to families who need help. Thanks also to everyone who stopped by and enjoyed coffee, cocoa, chili, cookies, crafts, and fellowship. Congratulations to the 2022 Silver Ladle award winners for their Lohmen Circle Oktoberfest Chili!



LiNK Wednesdays- Wednesday activities resume January 11

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.

Sundays in Faith Village

In Faith Village, we will kick the year off with a pajama party on January 1! Kids can wear their favorite pajamas to church and have pancakes in Cole Hall.

If you have not done so already, Please be sure to register your villager. 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

Are you ready for the new year? We are starting the year off with a Lockin, January 6-7 Plan to play games, eat pizza, and hang out with friends all night at church. We start at 8:00 PM on January 6 and finish at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 7. We can't wait to get the fun started!

Youth Group meets Wednesday evenings, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM and Sunday evenings for fellowship, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM.

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 while discussing the theme of the upcoming sermon and identifying how it applies to our lives today. Youth are then invited to attend service with their families or together in the balcony.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502



Wednesday Night Connecting Activities for All Ages

5:30 p.m. Children/Youth drop off at gym

6:00 p.m. Dinner for all ages in Cole Hall

6:30-7:30 p.m. Weekly Rotating Activities (Fun, Learning & Service!)

LiNK* Nights are our Wednesday Night opportunities to connect – “link” – together as a congregation! 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.