October 19, 2023

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

In 2023, Westminster Presbyterian – Lincoln has impacted countless lives because of the generosity of members and friends like you. Here are a few highlights:

* Westminster taught 40 kids about the love of Jesus at Vacation Bible School!
* Westminster celebrated nine baptisms between the months of March and October 2023 (up from one in 2022 and six in 2021)!
* Westminster shared thousands of meals with our neighbors through ongoing efforts with our Westminster Food Pantry and by regularly sending service groups to The Gathering Place and Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach. We also packed 10,000 meals with our new mission partner, Kids Against Hunger, in August. 5,000 of those stayed in Lincoln.

We have worshiped together throughout the year with increased average attendance, nurtured the education and development of kids through Westminster Preschool, hosted 60 Presbyterian neighbors from across Nebraska exploring what it means to be inclusive and welcoming churches, welcomed kids from across Lincoln to our spaces through Lincoln Public Libraries Summer Reading Program, shared joy and community impact by hosting the Heritage League’s Holiday of Trees, opened our doors to the local community as a voting precinct, and hosted the Lincoln Police and Fire Explorers Emergency Situation Enactment. We are a presence in Lincoln with increasing visibility and outreach.

In each of these ways, we open our doors, reach out our hands, and live our call to “expand lives in faith, connect people deeply, and make a difference through service.” We could not live out this calling without the support of donors to our annual budget – donors like you. Thank you for your support in 2023! Your commitment to our 2024 Annual Campaign will help us to both continue and expand such efforts.

This year our Fall Stewardship Season is focusing on what it means to have faith in One God, be a people who are One-In-Christ, and thus, live out our call as One Westminster – All in Gratitude to God. We can find this call in Ephesians 4:4-6, “**4**You are one body and one spirit, just as God also called you in one hope. **5**There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6**and one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all, and in all.” As we seek to be One Westminster, we hope that you will review these 2024 Stewardship materials and make a commitment toward our 2024 budget.

We recognize the challenges of rising costs, and at church we have experienced increases to our costs as well. Looking ahead, one stated goal of our leadership for 2024 is to start the process to call an Associate Pastor. Increased support to our budget will help us move forward in reaching that goal and others. If you gave in 2023, we hope you will prayerfully consider an increase to your gift. If you did not give in 2023, we hope you will consider making a first-time gift to help us grow our impact!

To make a commitment, please complete and return the two-sided 2024 Pledge / Time and Talent Commitment Form to Westminster. You may bring it with you on Commitment Sunday, November 5, 2023, or return it to the church office (c/o Dennis Rohren, Bookkeeper) at your earliest convenience. As One Westminster in 2024, you can help us be the church God is calling us to be with growth and increased impact. We appreciate your time, your discernment, and your commitment.

With Gratitude,

Your 2023 Stewardship Team,

Rev. Chris Peters, Jim Hlava, Bob Michaud, Allen Wachter, Shalla Young