



# THE MESSENGER

*One God, One-in-Christ, One Westminster ~ all in gratitude!*

## FIRST NATIONS CHORAL FESTIVAL an Evening of Music by Indigenous Composers

Performances by University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln  
Public Schools, and community choral ensembles



Artwork by Sarah Rowe

**Tuesday March 5, 2024  
7:30pm (central time)  
St. Paul United Methodist Church  
Lincoln, NE**

Distinguished guests include Nebraska Senator Tom Brewer (Oglala), UMC Bishop David Wilson (Choctaw), composer Linthicum Blackhorse (Lakota), artist Sarah Rowe (Lakota), NCIA executive director Judi gaiashkibos (Ponca), poet Aliyah American Horse (Oglala)

## A Holy Week Meditation for *the Messenger*, March 2024 by Associate Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

According to Luke 23:46, on the cross, Jesus, crying with a loud voice, commended his spirit to God the Father, and died.

In Western culture, our notion of what is meant by the word “spirit” is highly influenced by Greek philosophy ---- Plato believed that the world was illusion in the sense that the idea or essence of “tree” is more real than “a tree” – or a table or a chair or whatever. It’s almost like some Oriental or Hindu concepts. This split between physical reality and essential reality is called “Platonic dualism.”

Aristotle’s philosophy brought a change: the perspective of the true reality of matter . . . And without Aristotle’s understanding, I doubt that the scientific method of analyzing reality could have emerged . . . though it was not really until the 1700’s that scientific thinking truly emerged.

So: as post-Aristotelians **we** do not think that trees or tables or chairs are not real. They are things and can be studied as to structure and composition. But, in regards to the concept of human spirit, even Aristotle retained Plato’s dualism: a human being **has** a soul . . . like it is a separate part and only **a part** of us. Like we **have** a knee-cap and we **have** a stomach. And a big toe. Just parts. “Parts is parts” if you remember the old KFC commercial about unidentifiable chunks of chicken.

And common parlance, even today, reflects Aristotle’s continuation of Plato’s dualism even if the person-on-the-street has never read Aristotle.

But in the Hebraic concepts behind Holy Scripture, spirit is looking at the entire person, from the perspective of one’s relationship to God. It is not a “part” of us that we have. **It is us**. When God breathed breath into the man-made-of-mud – *adam* made of *adamah* -- the man was not “given a soul” – rather the *adam* became a living soul.

*“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”* Christ’s dying words, yes. But it was what Jesus had done his entire life . . . commending himself to the care and keeping of God. It was inclusive of everything that Jesus was . . . a committal of Jesus entirely to God. . . *not merely a fragment of him*.

I gleaned a prayer from attending worship at the Dunblane Cathedral in Scotland, a parish of the Church of Scotland. It tries to reflect such inclusivity of what we commend to God:

*Lord, we commend to Your care: Our souls & our bodies; Our minds & our thoughts;  
Our health & our work; Our parents, our children, our families; Our neighbors & friends;  
Our life & our death. We place them all in Your hands, This day & always.*

This simple prayer reminds us that as we commit everything about ourselves and our lives to God, God will faithfully respond and vindicate our trust, even as God did for Jesus the Crucified.

**Hearts & Hands | Church Library | Wednesdays at 1:30 - 3:00 PM**

Hearts & Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wed. from 1:30 – 3 PM, in the church library. All needle work folks are welcome to come visit and see what you're missing! Laughter is free. All yarn donations are welcome! Questions: Call Francy Scheele at (402) 310-4212.

**Lunch Bunch | Fireworks Restaurant, 5750 S. 86th Street | Tuesday, March 5, 11:30 A.M.**

As always, no agenda, no program, just fun. All are welcome. RSVP is a MUST this time. We have the Hearth Room with a seating capacity of 20 persons. We expect more interest in this great venue so book early! Call or text Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or email [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you!

**History Buffs: "COLUMBUS MEETS THE NATIVES" | Saturday, March 9 | Lounge at 9:00 a.m.**

January's History Buffs had to be postponed because of the arctic blast. Please note the new date. "Momma don't make me learn that awful history." A short lesson in the history of America's indigenous people, presented by Dr. Ken Govaerts.

**Ladies' Night Out | Tuesday, March 19, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

You are invited to join us this month at Ollie & Hobbes! They are located in the South Pointe Pavilions at 2940 Pine Lake Rd STE A. Please RSVP by Saturday, February 26 to [robynu2@hotmail.com](mailto:robynu2@hotmail.com).

**Faith and Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, March 19 | Library at 7 p.m.**

Finding Comfort and Peace after the diagnosis of Cancer is often very difficult to say the least. However, sharing that uneasy feeling with others who have been on that journey, can be a surprising and helpful new dimension. Here at Westminster Presbyterian Church our support group is based on three specific features: sharing laughter, sharing burdens, and sharing blessings. All are welcome. Contact Bruce Sheffield at (402) 783-0394.

**Prairie Readers | Wednesday, March 20 | Lounge at 1 p.m.**

Prairie Readers will meet March 20th at 1 PM in the Lounge. Lisa DeBuse will lead the discussion of *"The Invention of Wings"* by Sue Monk Kidd. A powerful, sweeping novel, inspired by real events, and set in the American Deep South in the nineteenth century, *The Invention of Wings* evokes a world of shocking contrasts, of beauty and ugliness, of righteous people living daily with cruelty they fail to recognize and celebrates the power of friendship and sisterhood against all the odds.

## The Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation Annual Report for 2023

The Westminster Foundation provides assistance to the Church by providing funds to assist with building projects, education and mission projects. The assets as of January 1, 2023 were \$3,400,671.72 and ended the year with total assets of \$3,478,920.47. Even though this is an increase of \$78,248.75, the big news is we disbursed \$186,000.00 to the Church for designated activities. The year was especially active:

- The Foundation paid for the 10,000 meals that were packed by 130 people in the Kids Against Hunger project.
- The Trustees voted to provide \$11,440 for church maintenance and repair costs. The Facilities Endowment, Weesner Landscape Endowment and Henderson Fund provided funds for roof leak repairs, gutter cleaning, landscaping and bat remediation.
- Funds were also provided to upgrade WPC's security system.
- The Church also received \$17,000 from the Foundation for operating expenses.
- We sold one cemetery lot in Lincoln Memorial. This leaves six lots still available for purchase at reduced prices.
- Pastor Chris and Allen Wachter received financial support to attend the National Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference in September.
- We are also so pleased the elevator to the sanctuary is now functioning. The total cost was \$140,394.50. Of that total \$84,485.11 was provided by the insurance claim. The balance of the expense provided by the Foundation was to install equipment to comply with City codes. The Facilities Endowment and the Henderson Fund were used.
- Foundation funds and private donations have paid for the stained glass window restoration projects. We also received proceeds in 2023 from a life insurance policy that had been dedicated for the restoration of the large window above the balcony.
- At the October meeting, the Trustees voted to provide up to \$89,000 for concrete repair for the parking lot repairs. Of that total, \$45,000 was authorized for 2023 priority repairs. The remainder will be disbursed in 2024.

Westminster Foundation is proud to be able to assist our Church to keep our building strong and safe and our programs viable. We think of the Foundation as a large shade tree. The tree provides shade today because a seed was planted many years ago. Our Foundation is able to provide funds today because members contributed financial gifts through the years that were invested wisely and their dollars continued to grow. We are thankful today for those gifts.

Please know that donations to the Foundation are always appreciated. They directly support the many needs of our Church. If you have a special place in your heart to support our Church, please talk to a Foundation Trustee or to Pastor Chris.

Dave Anderson  
Rob Baltensperger  
Joyce Douglas  
Stacy Graham

Steve Hughes  
Sandi Larson  
Pat Leach  
Erika Schafer

Gwen Thorpe  
Allen Wachter  
Jim White



## **Join us for the first-ever Native American Choral Festival Celebrating the Rich Heritage of Indigenous Composers and Artists!**

The event will feature performances by students from Standing Bear High School and Lincoln North Star High School, multiple University of Nebraska-Lincoln choirs, Saint Paul United Methodist Church choir, and Westminster Presbyterian Church choir. Nebraska youth poet laureate poet Aliyah American Horse and Indigenous artist Sarah Rowe will also be presenting their work, alongside distinguished guests including UMC Bishop David Wilson and Lakota-Sioux Composer Linthicum Blackhorse.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the world premiere of a newly commissioned Native American choral piece, symbolizing the festival's commitment to promoting and preserving Indigenous cultural heritage.

"We are thrilled to bring together such a diverse and talented group of artists and performers for the First Nations Festival," said Mary Young, Festival Coordinator. "This event not only celebrates First Nation composers of choral music but also provides a cross-curricular event that combines legend, music, poetry, and storytelling."



Join us in honoring Indigenous culture and creativity at the First Nations Festival – an evening that promises to inspire, uplift, and unite communities through the power of music and art. The event is free, open to the public, and will be live-streamed.

For more information and media inquiries, please contact Mary Young at [maryruthyoung95@gmail.com](mailto:maryruthyoung95@gmail.com) or 585-545-9852.

Cover art by Sarah Rowe

## Help Wanted: Interior Decorator

Professional or amateur, we need your creative juices to decorate the chancel for Creation Celebration 2024. The dates are Sunday, April 14 through May 19. We'll supply the theme, a small budget, and volunteers if needed to help with any "installation." We look to you for the inspiration to give our sanctuary a celebratory vibe. Interested? Contact Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or email [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com).

## VBS 2024: Hero Hotline

*Called together to serve God.*

**June 3-7, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

It is time to register for VBS! Sign your children up to enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they are called together to serve God. They will become Heroes and discover that answering God's call together means striving for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up!

We will be collaborating with Good Shepherd Presbyterian again this year, but sessions will take place at Westminster, 2110 Sheridan Boulevard.



Registration is \$10/child (\$30 max/family) before May 31 . Register now at <https://vbsmate.com/events/westminsterlincoln/28376>.

Adults and youth are also invited to become heroes 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/events/westminsterlincoln/28376> or at 402-475-6702 to explore the options.

**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>.**

## You are Invited!!

### Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Theme: "Do everything in love."

1 Corinthians 16:14

#### Homestead Presbyterian Women

Saturday, April 6, 2024

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM



#### Join us at the Fremont Presbyterian Church located at 520 West Linden Ave

There is no charge for this gathering, there will be complimentary coffee and treats available in the morning and lunch will be provided. Hope to see you there! For questions please contact Maggie Horak 402-429-0523, mmhlin@outlook.com

For PW Together in Service, please bring Baby Layette Kit items to donate (sleepers, receiving blankets, onesies, bibs, wash cloths, hooded baby bath towels – all new). An offering will be collected with half going to PW Synod Native American Scholarship Fund and half to defray the cost of lunch.



#### Westminster's Swanson Scholarship

Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient per academic school year. Applications are available on the church website (<https://westminsterlincoln.org>) under the GIVE tab or in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study; however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. Application deadline is March 31.

### Westminster Welcome Baby Closet

To celebrate new babies in the Westminster family, the Children and Youth Committee is seeking donations of useful baby items to stock a Welcome Baby Closet. Items from the closet will be used to create baskets for new parents.

Please drop off any donations in the tote behind the reception desk. If you have any questions, contact Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org).

### Call for Eggstravaganza Donations

Our annual Eggstravaganza is coming up on March 27 and we can use your help. We are seeking donation bags of candy and/or any other small handouts for the children. Look for a collection tote at the top of the steps by the East entrance.

If you have any questions, please contact Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org).



## Eggstravaganza

**Join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, March 27**

Children from preschool to 5th grade are invited to come for an evening of fun. The evening begins with dinner at 5:45 PM, followed by the hunt and games at 6:15 PM.

Come for the hunt and stay for the rest of the evening activities.  
Questions? Contact Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or (402) 570-0163.





**LiNK Wednesdays | 5:30 PM–7:30 PM**

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.

**Sunday Youth Group | 6:30 PM–8:00 PM**

The Sunday Youth Group meeting will focus on fellowship. Join your church friends to talk, play games, do homework together, or just hang out. There will be no youth group on Sunday, March 10 and no activities on Wednesday, March 13 due to Spring Break.

**Youth Group: Urban Air | Sunday, March 24 | 3:00 PM-5:00 PM**

The Youth Group will be headed to Sun Valley Lanes on Sunday, March 24. Please bring \$10 per person, max of \$30 per family.

**Cinnamon Roll Breakfast | Sunday, March 31 | 9:15 AM**

Join us after the service on March 31 to enjoy fresh cinnamon rolls between the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services.

**Youth Group:****Chopped, The Feeding of the Five(ish) Judges Continues | Sunday, April 14**

Everybody's favorite event Chopped: The Feeding of the Five Judges is back! This event is modeled after the cooking competition show that challenges each chef's skill, speed and ingenuity. Our youth group teams will compete before a panel of expert judges, turning baskets of mystery ingredients into extraordinary dishes with only seconds to plan and 30 minutes to cook. Once they've completed their dishes, our celebrity judges will taste each offering and decide which team will be crowned as the best chef.

**LiNK Sunday: Pretzel Bar | Sunday, April 21 10:45 AM**

After the service on Sunday, April 21, the Children and Youth and Church Life Committees invite you to explore the connections between Christianity and pretzels while enjoying a salty treat with an array of dipping sauces.

**Youth Group: Mini Golf | April 28 | 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

Join us for an afternoon of fun at Prehistoric Putt for a round of mini golf. Please bring \$5 per person, maximum of \$15 per family.

## Marathon Support

**Sunday, May 5 | 7:00 AM**

The Annual Lincoln Marathon course passes directly by Westminster, providing us the opportunity to be welcoming. All Westminster members are invited to extend our hospitality by staffing a welcome table to distribute donut holes, water, Gatorade, and bananas to runners and spectators.



## LiNK Sunday: Pentecost Cookies

**Sunday, May 19 | 10:45 AM**

The Children and Youth Committee and the Church Life Committee invite you to decorate a cookie in honor of the birthday of the church after the service on Pentecost Sunday.

## Save the Dates!

**Youth Group:** End of Year Party

Sunday, May 19 | 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**Youth Group:** Kiddie Pool Kickball

July 14 | 1:30 PM-3:30 PM

**Synod School** | July 21-26

**Westminster Pool Party** | August 8

## Prayer Requests

For prayer requests, concerns and praises, please send email

to: [prayer@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto: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](mailto:prayer@westminsterlincoln.org).



All information for The Messenger is due to [tracy@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:tracy@westminsterlincoln.org) by the 18th of each month. All announcements for The eVine/Vine are due to Tracy and [joanne@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:joanne@westminsterlincoln.org) by 5 pm on Monday of each week.

## 2024 Easter Lily Donation Form

### Share the joy of Easter!

We will be ordering Easter lilies to place in the sanctuary for the Easter Sunday services. You can make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, to be displayed in the bulletin for Easter Sunday. Or you may donate money to one of the Westminster Endowment Funds.

The donation level is \$15. Please make checks payable to Westminster and write **EASTER LILY** on the memo line.

Donations must be received by March 18 to be included in the order of worship.

### Mail your check and the information specified below to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Attn: Joanne  
2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ toward the purchase of an Easter lily/lilies.

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for one of the following Westminster Endowment Funds.

Endowments may be any amount.

Please check one:

\_\_\_\_ Mission and Outreach Endowment \_\_\_\_ Music and Worship Endowment \_\_\_\_ General Purpose  
Endowment \_\_\_\_ The Great Commission Endowment \_\_\_\_ Facilities Endowment \_\_\_\_ Education Endowment

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_







Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd

Lincoln, NE 68502

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## Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship with Palm Processional | March 24 | 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday Church-wide Dinner, Communion and Worship | March 28 | 6:15 PM

Good Friday Service | March 29 | 6:15 PM

Easter Sunday Worship with Brass | March 31 | 8 AM

Cinnamon Roll Social in the Garden Room | 9:15 AM

Easter Sunday Worship with Brass | March 31 | 10 AM



# HOLY WEEK

The church building will be closed the Monday following Easter, April 1 for a staff holiday. No meetings will be held at the church on April 1.