

# WESTMINSTER WITNESS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE



*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed... some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no roots.*

### Fertile Ground: The Rocky Road

Rocky Road, as an ice cream flavor, is something most of us love, but rocky roads of life are something most of us try to avoid. The rocky roads that we can face are things that often test and try us. They challenge our strengths, our support networks, our resources, and force us to examine whether or not we are on the right path. But most of all, rocky roads prevent us from laying down a root system in our lives that sustains and nourishes us through our lives. As much as we try to flourish, we are just unable to go deeper in our relationships and our faiths. We cannot penetrate the rocks beneath us, and so, our branches above us often wither and fade.

As we continue to explore the *Parable of the Sower* in Matthew 13, we now encounter a 'soil' that at first appears to be receptive to the seed of truth that the farmer is sowing. This seed quickly sprouts forth, but its roots have nothing to attach themselves to. The rocky ground is not porous enough to let the roots through, and so, the seeds wither and die. Christ later adds an explanatory note, "*The seed falling*

*on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.*" This rocky soil Jesus refers to is perhaps the most dangerous of all the other soil types for us as believers. On the outside, we can put forth a good exterior in which our lives appear to flourish. We appear to be successful in our jobs and careers, our families look like we are functioning well, and we participate in and are active in our faith. But then the storms of life arise, and all of that external 'joy' falls away because we have not fixed our roots to the one who saves and redeems. We are blown around by the winds of life because we have not allowed our roots to dive deeply into God's Word and God's Will. We are not promised a life free from the storms, but we are promised the one who can protect and save us from the winds and the waves.

In the famous Biosphere 2 Project, in the late 1980's, researchers constructed in the Arizona desert the largest closed ecological systems ever created. The project was meant to re-create an ideal ecosystem of plants and animals within a controlled environment. Eventually, the project would fail. One of the many reasons for this failure was that the trees and plants would spring up quickly but would soon fade and fall away before reaching maturation. They found that the reason for this was that there was little to no wind in the Biosphere. Because of the absence of wind, the foliage had no need for a strong root system. They grew quickly but could not support themselves. Without the outside stress of the storms and the inward strength of solid roots, the plants were doomed.

Such is true for all of us. God brings storms, and winds, and rain into our lives so that we will dive deep within him and anchor our roots to his

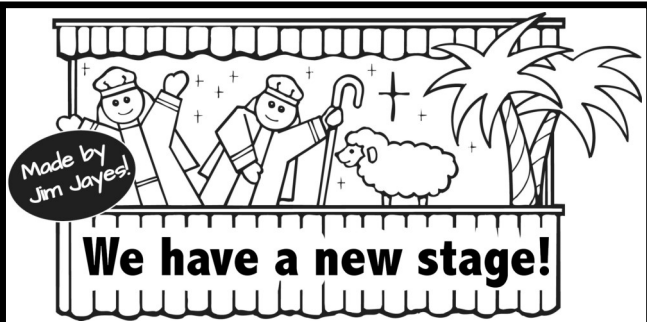
Word and his Truth. The rocky roads will come, but it is only when we affix ourselves to our Savior that we will not only survive but we will learn to flourish. In this new year, create practices in your lives that will allow your roots to grow strong and firm. Commit yourselves to the path of our God and you will live a life that is full and rich and filled with true joy!

God Bless;  
Pastor Mike

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Jan & Feb Calendars



Sunday School begins again on  
January 7th from 10:45 – 11:45 am  
For ages 3 years - 5th Grade


We continue learning from Jesus, our Rabbi,  
our teacher. We will discover and discuss  
the Lord's Prayer and the Golden Rule. We  
also have a new puppet stage in our C.E.  
Wing built by Jim Jayes. Come and see how  
incredibly spectacular it is!




**Adventurer's Club**  
for grades 2 - 5  
**Service Projects**  
Sun., February 18th  
2:00 - 3:30 pm

Please note that this is a change of date from our original calendar. Invite a friend for the fun!

We were able to deliver games, puzzles, socks, stuffed animals, books, and art activities to the Salvation Army for their Angel Tree. Major Jeff Strickler thanked our congregation for our continued support of programs that reach out to our neighbors in Christian love.

Looking for Sunday School Teachers for the winter and spring. It's fun to learn something new each week as you impart your faith and knowledge to our children. See Laura Carlson.



**Family Sledding Night**  
(Or Game Night if there is no snow)  
**Wednesday, January 10**  
**5:30 pm**  
Dinner, hot cocoa, and cookies will be provided. Meet at the church.



On Wednesday nights during Lent, children age 3 years - 5th grade will start the service in the Sanctuary and be dismissed for music time or teaching time.  
February 21, 28, & March 13 with Miss Emma  
March 6 & 20 with Miss Laura  
Fish Banks will be distributed to the children and may be returned on Palm Sunday, March 24. All money collected goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, Hunger Program, and Self-Development Program.



## LIFT Youth Ministries



### LIFT Ski Trip

We are planning a ski trip for **Sunday, February 11th at Buck Hill.** Get ready to shred some snow after church!!! Bring a friend or two! We plan on leaving the church at 1:30pm. **Cost: \$60**

**RSVP with Pastor Britt by February 4th.**

### Summer Mission Trip

Our mission trip this year will be to Colorado Springs, CO. The dates are June 22nd –30th.

Keep an eye out for meetings and more information! Sign up now!

We are also looking for adult chaperones. Talk to Pastor Britt for more details.



Just a reminder that Jan-April Confirmation is twice a month (2nd and 4th Sundays at 2pm)

January 14 (2:00-4:00pm)

January 28 (2:00-4:00pm)

February 11 (Ski Trip—No Confirmation)

February 25 (2:00-4:00pm)

\*\*\* February 11th is our Youth Ski Trip so we will not have confirmation but you will meet with your mentors to discuss the topic at a time you choose together.

### Wednesday Night LIFT

LIFT Youth Ministries is starting up again on **Wednesday on January 17th from 6:00-7:30 pm (unless otherwise noted).** Join us for food, study, and fellowship.

Our first series this month is called “FILM”, please note **we will NOT be** watching the entirety of the film, but only a clip from it to aid in our study.

Jan. 10—Sledding Night

Jan. 17—Film Series (part 1) - Black Panther

Jan. 24—Film Series (part 2) - The Giver

Jan. 31—Film Series (part 3) - Encanto

Feb. 7—Film Series (part 4) - The Chosen

Feb. 14—Ash Wednesday (6:30)

Feb. 21—Lent Vespers (5:30-7:00)

Feb. 28—Lent Vespers (5:30-7:00)

### LIFT Sunday School

Jan. 7— Fresh Start Series (part 1)

Jan. 14—Fresh Start Series (part 2)

Jan 21. —Fresh Start Series (part 3)

Jan. 28—Congregational Meeting

Feb. 4—Fresh Start Series (part 4)

Feb. 11—No Class—Ski Trip

Feb. 18—Suffering Servant Series (part 1)

Feb. 25—Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

### Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

All youth are asked to help participate in our Pancake Breakfast fundraiser. Please arrive at the church by 8:45am on

February 25th to help set up and cook and serve pancakes!





### Tuesday Morning Bible Study

We will begin meeting again on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am in the Church Parlor. Join us for great discussions and wonderful fellowship. We will also be enjoying some yummy Cinnamon Rolls.

### Thursday Morning Men's Study

Join us for our annual Welcome Back Breakfast at Perkins on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am. Our regular studies will begin on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### New Officer Training

On Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am, there will be a training session in the Parlor for all incoming Officers - both Elders and Deacons. This is a time in which we will educate all of our new officers on the processes and procedures for being either an Elder or a Deacon. We will also reflect on the spiritual purpose of being a church officer. Light refreshments will be served.

welcome  
New Officers



## ***ALIVE!***

### ***After Christmas Appetizers & Treats!***

Alive! will be meeting at Sue Radloff's home on **Sunday, January 14th from 2 - 4pm** for a time of **Appetizers & Treats** along with some great Fellowship! Just show up with a plate of your favorite desserts and/or appetizer to share with the group, and whatever treats are leftover, everyone chooses some to bring back home. We thank Sue in advance for opening her home for this event.

**Sue's address is: 1400 19th St SW**

***Alive! fellowship group is open to all over age 50.***

***Please contact :***  
***Meridee Ofstedahl at 507-279-0851***  
***Betsy Wuebker at 808-720-0370***  
***Cindy Jayes at 507-438-7707***  
***with any questions.***



### **Sunday Morning Adult Education:**

#### **Beyond the Pulpit**

*"You have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 3:15*

On January 7th, we will begin our weekly Pastor's Study again on Sunday Mornings. This is a chance for us to go "Beyond the Pulpit" as we explore and unpack the mornings scripture and message. All are welcome to join us in the Parlor at 11:00am.





## Music News



### Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will celebrate the new year with singing at the January 7 and 14 Sunday services. We will be rehearsing on Wed., January 3 & 10th in the sanctuary at 7:20 p.m. It is a good time to join the choir if you have been thinking about it!

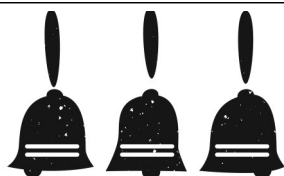
Sue Radloff, Director

**Spirit Ringers** will rehearse on Wednesdays at 6:15 until Lent begins. We play for church on the fourth Sunday of each month.



When Lent begins, we will rehearse following the Lenten service. If choir is rehearsing then, we will rehearse on Thursday at 6:15. February 29 will be our first Thursday rehearsal.

Ann Flisrand, Director



### Rainbow Ringers

No rehearsal on January 3. Regular rehearsals (Wednesday at 4:45) will resume on January 10. We will plan to play for a Lenten service, but the date has not yet been determined.

Ann Flisrand, Director

### Rainbow Ringers:



Happy New Year to all! We had a great 2023, and I'm looking forward to continuing the music and worship in the new year. Sunshine Singers will continue to meet on Sundays during worship (10-10:30am) for ages 3-2nd grade. 3rd grade and older will remain in

the service unless helping with Sunshine Singers (Ms. Emma will email out date assignments to parents.) Sunshine Singers will also be presenting special music during the Lenten Vespers service on March 6, so please attend the rehearsals on February 21 and 28 during the Vespers services.

In addition, Joyful Noise, our new guitar group for 3rd-8th graders, will restart in 2024! We will continue with learning guitar, adding onto the basic skills by learning more chords and strum patterns. Please come whether you attended in 2023 or not, and RSVP to Ms. Emma at [e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com](mailto:e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com).



Meeting dates are as follows:

January 24 at 5:30pm

January 31 at 5:30pm

February 7 at 5:30pm

Ms. Emma

### Music Directors:

**Sue Radloff - Chancel Choir**  
[fiddlesue@yahoo.com](mailto:fiddlesue@yahoo.com)

**Lorene Strobel - Ascending Truth**  
[lorenestrobel@gmail.com](mailto:lorenestrobel@gmail.com)


**Emma Evans-Peck - Sunshine Singers**  
[e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com](mailto:e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com)

**Ann Flisrand - Bell Choirs**  
[annflis44@charter.net](mailto:annflis44@charter.net)



- 1 Nanc Lenz
- 1 Martha Oman
- 3 Cameron Olsen
- 7 Gordon Briggs
- 7 JoAnne Clark
- 7 Bradley Guy
- 8 Teri Wermager
- 9 Tracy Oleson
- 9 Lauren Nelson
- 9 Nicole Wyatt
- 10 Megan Dickman
- 11 Zachary Coffey
- 11 Robin Glisczynski
- 11 Rev. Michael Olmsted
- 15 Shirley Guy
- 15 Stephanie Wilkinson
- 17 Sean Coffey
- 17 Patty Rayman
- 18 Makenna Tapp
- 20 Zachary Bridgeman
- 20 Renny Hubbard
- 20 Olive Jones
- 20 Jack Langer
- 20 Henry Langer
- 20 Cindy Momsen
- 21 Ann Flisrand
- 23 Jamie Ponopart
- 24 Avnielle Kpelevi
- 27 Laura Carlson
- 27 Matt Clennon
- 27 Camille Osmonson
- 29 Harold Boverhuis
- 29 Rev. Britt Wundermachen

- 1 Toren Bires
- 2 Roland Hanson
- 2 Vandy Newman
- 4 Nikki Nelson
- 6 Lilly Nystel
- 6 Lynda Paxton
- 6 Keith Sayles
- 6 Thomas Walker
- 7 London Watson
- 8 Leland Aanonson
- 8 Hannah Hecimovich
- 8 Meridee Ofstedahl
- 8 Katherine Pacovsky
- 10 Virginia Dunlap
- 10 Andrew Sayles
- 10 Georgiann Simonson
- 11 Tammy Coffey
- 11 Helen Hecimovich
- 12 David Rasmussen
- 14 Lily Hiegel
- 14 Jeanne Wangen
- 15 Carol Hamilton
- 16 Ron Colling
- 18 Patricia Hansen
- 20 Theo Sundal
- 22 Lindsey Davidson
- 23 David Dickman
- 24 Jeff Sayles
- 25 Audrey Carroll
- 26 Kasey Baker
- 26 Micah Vortherms
- 28 Vollie Stiebler



**Serving Our Country**

Alex Charlson (Jacky Dietz's great-nephew) - Army

Jamar Salisbury (Mary Boyenga's grandson) - National Guard

Bryce Gerber - Marines

Christine Gaskel - National Guard

Garrett Smith (Pastor Mike's nephew) - Air Force

Joe Carman (Grandson of Joe & Katherine Pacovsky) - National Guard

If you or a family member are actively serving in the military, please contact the church office, and we will include them in future Witnesses.

**WPC Food Pantry Needs**

**Butter/Margarine**

**Frozen Meats**

**Frozen Chicken**

**Frozen potatoes**

If you or someone in your family has a birthday in January or February and it's NOT listed, that means the church office doesn't have your birth date. If it is incorrectly listed or missing, please contact the church office so we can update our church records.

Thanks!



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice and Peace & Build Community*

*Witnessing to the Promise of God's kingdom, Nurturing  
Faith and Engaging in Mission,  
Working for Justice and Peace, and building an inclusive,  
caring community of women.*

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:** On December 13th, PWC welcomed guests to our Annual Christmas luncheon to the beautiful strains of the harp by Kris Nuñez. Delicious hot cider was served by Shirley Hinrichs and Darlene Berhow and food was provided and served by Rebekah and Pot Pourri Bible Study groups. An abbreviated meeting followed, which included a Time of Remembrance for the women who passed away in 2023. Brief business items were to approve the 2024 budget, introduce the 2024 Coordinating Team, and give back through the Thank Offering. This wonderful tradition is something we look forward to every year!

**SECRET SISTERS:** December 17 was an exciting time for the "Secret Sisters" reveal. This new tradition allows anonymous messages of support and inspiration along with small gifts during a 6-week period leading up to Christmas. Knowing that a Secret Sister keeps you in her prayers during this busy time is a source of comfort, too.

**MISSION UPDATE:** Thank you to all who responded to the 2023 Missions Letter! This is a major source of giving for us along with the other fundraising activities throughout the year. Because of your generosity, we were able to maintain and increase donations to our mission recipients and look forward to providing additional support in the New Year.

### **Looking Forward**

PWC Coordinating Team 2024:  
Betsy Wuebker, Moderator;  
Gloria Aanonson, Vice Moderator;  
Nanc Lenz, Secretary;  
Selene Schulz, Treasurer;  
Cyrene Berthiaume, Jacky Dietz, Helen Hecimovich,  
Shirley Hinrichs, Millie Masse, and Peggy Queensland

**The 2024 Yearbook** is available in the Narthex for all women of the congregation. Pick one up to find out details about morning and evening Bible Study groups, the Symbolic Supper, PWC Committees, Gatherings, and Fundraising Activities.

**Circle of Compassion** Committee serves bereaved families by coordinating lunches at Celebration of Life and Memorial Services. Nanc Lenz chairs this committee with the assistance of Meridee Ofstedahl. Watch for a sign-up list on how you can assist with this vital aspect of our Church Life.

### **Women's Bible Studies**

**Rebekah Morning Bible Study** meets on January 24th at 9:30am and will conclude our study of Fruits of the Spirit, led by Jacky Dietz. A new study will begin in February. Contact Selene Schulz (507-438- 3299) for more information. (Rebekah Bible Study meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 9:30am in the Church Parlor, September - May.)

**Pot Pourri Bible Study** meets January 22 at 5:30pm in the Parlor. Our Bible Study is "The Awe of God" and Linda Knutson will continue to lead our study (Pot Pourri meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month in the Parlor at 5:30pm. August - April.)

Throughout the year, watch for Witness Newsletter, Bulletin, and Bulletin Board announcements of other programs open to all women of the congregation – more *Summer Sister* and *Secret Sister* opportunities, outings, mission giving, and more.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Betsy Wuebker, Moderator



## Church Directory

### UPDATE

### New Address

**Andrew & Amanda Bridgeman**  
**Baby Henry**  
 1200 10th St NW  
 Austin, MN 55912

**Joanne Clark**  
 1401 4th St SW, #401  
 Austin, MN 55912

**Darlene Duholm**  
 1704-C Carriage Home Drive  
 Austin, MN 55912

**Brooke Hamilton**  
 89060 220th St  
 Oakland, MN 56007

**Christine Gaskel**  
 506 9th Ave SW (east side)  
 Austin, MN 55912

**Susan & Rick Stoullil**  
 PO Box 753  
 Arnolds Park, IA 51331-0753

### New Mailing Address

**Virginia Dunlap**  
**c/o Trudy Enger**  
 604 20th St NW  
 Austin, MN 55912

**Phone Number Changes**  
**Bill & Cindy Momsen**  
 No more landline  
 Bill: 507-438-2520  
 Cindy: 507-219-0724

### SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING POLICY

\*If schools are closed due to severe weather, the church office will open, if able, at 12:30p.m. All church activities are canceled for the day.

\*When schools are on a two hour or more delay, the church office will open, if able, at 10:00 a.m. All morning activities are canceled.

\*If in doubt, please call the church office before venturing out. This policy has been set for the safety of all.

**IN CASE OF SEVERE  
 WEATHER, PLEASE REFER  
 TO KAAL TV** or the church  
 answering machine for  
 church closings.



*She opens her arms to the poor and  
 extends her hands to the needy.*  
*Proverbs 31:20*

SALVATION ARMY CEREAL CART Thanks everyone for being so generous and keeping our commitment to furnish cereal for the Salvation Army cereal shelf. Please remember to continue bringing cereal when you can. The Austin community needs our help. Again, thank you from the Mission Committee

### 2023 Deliveries

January - 58 pounds  
 February - 46 pounds  
 March - 72 pounds  
 April - 50 pounds  
 June - 67 pounds  
 July/August - 45 pounds  
 September - 63 pounds  
 October/November - 67 pounds  
 December - 138 pounds  
**2023 total pounds - 606**





REJOICE  
ALWAYS,  
PRAY  
CONTINUALLY,  
GIVE THANKS  
IN ALL  
CIRCUMSTANCES.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

**Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**

It's that time of year!



You are invited on Sunday, February 25th to the Pancake Breakfast at 10:45am, following the Sunday worship. The proceeds from the breakfast will support the high school summer Mission Trip to Colorado Springs, Colorado from June 22 - 30. We look forward to seeing you. Come hungry!

**The Annual Meeting  
of the Congregation**

**Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 10:30 am**

**Snow Date is February 4, 2024**

Please plan to attend

Annual Reports will be in the Narthex on Sunday, January 21st. Please take one if you would like to review it before the Annual Meeting. Remember to bring it back to the Annual Meeting.



Save your change for  
the Money Jar!

**THE PENNY JAR –**  
located in Fellowship Hall

Thanks so much for answering the call. A whopping amount of \$355.54 was collected in the Penny Jar. The PWC has matched this total and gave \$711.08 to the Westminster Food Pantry. What a wonderful way to end the year!

Thank you Money Counters for lugging all that change to the bank. You are certainly instrumental in making this fundraiser happen!

*Congratulations to our  
2023 Chili Cook-Off Winner!*



**Pastor Mike Olmsted!**



## Did you know you can give via text or online?

Give easily and securely from anywhere, anytime.

**Via Text Message**

Text givewpc to 73256

**On our website**



[www.westminsteraustin.com](http://www.westminsteraustin.com)

Detailed instructions on how to give online are available on the welcome table. Any questions, stop in the church office.

# Happy New Year!

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30am-4pm

Friday

8:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone  
507-433-3258



### PER CAPITA

Per Capita is money each church is asked to pay to cover the administrative costs of the PCUSA General Assembly, our synod and our local Presbytery. **The payment due for 2024 is \$38.50 per member.**

### Staff Email Addresses

Rev. Michael Olmsted  
molmsted@westminsteraustin.com

Rev. Brittany Wundermachen  
b.wundermachen@westminsteraustin.com

Office Administrator-Cindy Jayes  
secretary1@westminsteraustin.com

Director of Children's Ministries - Laura Carlson  
christianed@westminsteraustin.com

Assistant Administrator/Media Specialist/Co-Treasurer  
-Eric Potter  
secretary2@westminsteraustin.com



**Westminster Website**  
[www.westminsteraustin.com](http://www.westminsteraustin.com)  
[www.facebook.com/westminsteraustinnn](https://www.facebook.com/westminsteraustinnn)

### CHURCH WEBSITE

Do you want to see a **colored** copy of the current or a past copy of the Witness? Do you want to see a **colored** current or past copy of the church bulletin? Did you miss a sermon or want to hear one again? All sermons and bulletins are under the new **Worship Service tab**. Are you looking for information on an upcoming event? Do you need a registration form? Do you wish to give online? Then **check out the church's renovated website**. Click the **Give Now** button and follow the prompts for online giving.

If you have church activities or pictures you would like posted on the church website, please email the information to Eric at



secretary2@westminsteraustin.com or drop it off in the church office. Eric updates the church website every Wednesday.





# Session News

# Deacon News

## Session News and Happenings from November and December

Your Session met in person on 11/21 and 12/19. The meetings were opened with devotions and prayers from Pastor Olmsted. Below are actions that Session took over the past two months:

### **Items Approved in our Clerk's Report:**

*Baptisms Performed: None; Deaths: None; Membership: Marc & Tracy Oleson (LoT); Vandy Newman (LoT); Lord's Supper was served collectively on 11/5/23 & 12/3/23 and individually on 10/30/23 and 12/19/23 by Rev. Olmsted and Rev. Wundermachen to four members.*

### **Items of Discussion coming from our Committees and any actions that were taken:**

Nurture/Discipleship oversaw the Christmas Pageant "Carriers of the Light." Discussed the Children, Youth and Adult ministries in the new year. *Session approved \$1000 (coming out of Special Accounts) be given to the new painting and murals in Classroom #6 in the CYM Wing.*

Personnel/Finance discussed the 2024 Stewardship Campaign results and began working on the 2024 Budget. Staff Annual Reviews will take place the first two weeks of January. Our Annual Meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> following our Sunday Service. Discussed funding for our upcoming property projects.

Facilities/Grounds reported that our outside electrical work has been completed, and they are waiting for equipment for the basement work. Work on our Boiler continues as we try to regulate heat throughout the facility. Discussed adding more accessible seating in the sanctuary. *Session approved that both the W/O and F/G Committees begin discussion of how to improve our accessibility in the Sanctuary. Session approved renewing our Snow Removal Contract with KC Lawn and Snow. The Kitchen Door/Ramp Project was indefinitely tabled.*

Worship/Outreach oversaw The Chili Cook-Off on 11/12/23 and the Blue Christmas Service on 12/17. There was discussion regarding having a 'Movie Under the Stars' Outreach in Jan./Feb.

Mission/Fellowship reported that all of the allocated mission monies have been distributed for the year. They helped serve at the Chili Cook-Off on 11/12 and the Potluck on 12/17.

*Session approved the bid from Cathedral Arts to repair our Stained Glass Windows for a max. of \$80,000 (Half will come from the Faith Forward Fund (FFF) and half will come from a Congregational Appeal.) The purchase of a new Air Conditioner unit was approved for \$17,130 which will come from FFF. The 4th Quarter Special Accounts Report from SA treasurer, Cindy Jayes, was approved. The October and November Treasurer's Report presented by Co-Treasurer, Bill Momsen, were approved. The Endowment Fund Investment limitations were changed from a monetary amount to a percentage amount. A Facility usage agreement with Casa del Alfarero (The Potter's House) Congregation and their use of the Chapel on Saturday and Sunday Nights for worship was approved. This will begin immediately. A request from Living Bible Church for 10-15 hours of office space was tabled until January in order to explore possible liability and insurance issues.*

Both meetings were closed with prayer by Rev. Wundermachen and the singing of the Doxology.

## Deacons

### **November**

We opened with a devotion from Jesus Calling. We read about making room for Christ in our hearts as he will guide us in all that we do. Our security is not found in the things of this world but in Christ. As Deacons, we seek to serve God's children. We cannot do so from our own strength but must rely on the fullness of God in our hearts to do so.

During our meeting, we discussed our homebound members and anyone who had been hospitalized recently, making sure that we were following up with them.

We then discussed our different committees and made sure that everyone was on the same page and getting their tasks for their committees accomplished. Our meal ministry in particular was able to bring 5 meals to people this month. We further discussed anybody else who was in need of meals. Selene is in charge of finding greeters for November and December.

We closed our meeting in prayer.

### **December**

We opened with a devotion from our Advent Devotional, "The Gifts of Christmas." We talked about the gift of hope we have in Christ who is our anchor in the storm. We realize as Deacons, we must be grounded in the hope of Christ as we share that hope with others.

We continued our meeting as we went through our care list and keeping up to date with those who have had brief hospitalizations or illnesses. We made a plan to follow up with people as needed and offer meals and comfort.

We discussed the tasks of our committees. Our correspondence committee made sure cards have been sent out and our welcome ministry has tasked Karen with finding greeters for January and February. Our meal ministry has been working hard and brought 3 meals to people last month. If you are interested in joining this ministry and cooking a meal every now and then, please talk to Pastor Britt.

We also wrote and sent out Christmas postcards to all of our care groups.

We closed our meeting with prayer.





## **Season of Lent: “In The Footsteps of the Savior”**

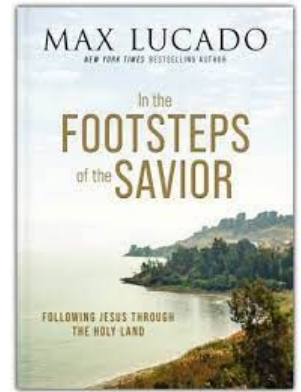
### **Wednesday Evenings Lenten Vespers Service**

*February/March*

### **A Series of Services for the Season of Lent**

(Luke 23:33)

During this Season of Lent, you are invited to journey with Jesus through Capernaum, Galilee, Caesarea, and Jerusalem as we all learn about the places Jesus walked, talked and proclaimed that he is our Savior.



Through a wonderful DVD series led by the acclaimed author Max Lucado, we will see the physical locations of much of Christ’s ministry, and we will be challenged through scripture, worship, and reflection to follow in his footsteps. Through our Wednesday Night Vesper Services and our Sunday Morning Worship, we will experience both the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ, and our faith and our vision for our own lives will be strengthened.

We will also be providing a Devotional/Study Guide with the same theme for all to enjoy. The LIFT Youth and our young children will be excused to their activities during the Worship.

We will be offering our traditional Wednesday Night Lenten Meals which will begin at 5:30pm starting on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

*Check out the Lenten Schedule for more information on the services and the meals!!*

## **Wednesday Night Lenten Meal and Vespers**

**Wednesday Night Lenten Suppers                 5:30pm – 6:15pm**

**Worship     6:20pm – 7:00pm**

**Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>    M/F – Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, & Caesar Salad**

**Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>    W/O & P/F – Picnic in February**

**March 6<sup>th</sup>    Deacons – Chicken & Rice**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>    Men’s Fellowship – Baked Potato Bar**

**March 20<sup>th</sup>    Youth – Taco Salad**

**\$5.00 – Adults**

**\$4.00 – Children**

**\$15.00 – Family**





## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Every Thursday at 9:30, Youth Room.



Please join us on Thursday mornings at 9:30 or whenever you can come for a time of knitting, crocheting, needlework of any sort or a project you are working on. You will find us in the Youth Room (how appropriate!) by simply following the chatter and laughter.

Don't know how to knit or crochet? No problem. Someone will teach you. Don't have needles or hooks? No worries. We are well supplied with needles, hooks, looms, and plenty of yarn. Everyone is welcome to join us as often as they are able.



## LADIES OF WESTMINSTER

You are invited to our monthly Ladies Lunch celebrating our birthdays. You can bring a friend too! **January 10th, we will be meeting at Bella Victoria at Noon** to celebrate those of us with birthdays in January. The date for the **February lunch will be on February 14 at Noon at Bella Victoria**. Watch the bulletins for more info! Please text or call Selene Schulz at 507-438-3299 if you would like to attend so reservations can be made.

**Please come! Bring a friend!**

## Faithful Families Sleigh Ride

All Families with school age children are invited to join us for a sleigh ride along with s'mores and hot cocoa!

**When:** Saturday, January 20th

**Where:** Ironwood Springs

**How:** Meet at the church at **12:00pm**, and we'll head on over to Ironwood Springs for our sleigh ride!!!

**Cost:** \$30 per family (Scholarships available)

RSVP with Pastor Britt or Laura Carlson by Jan 13 (*space is limited*)

\*\*Snow dependent



S L E I G H R I D E

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Non-Profit  
POSTAGE PAID  
Permit # 330  
Austin, MN 55912

CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

## January/February 2024



### Ash Wednesday Service

Lent is a season in which through preparation and study, we approach the Cross of Christ to learn of his salvation and his redemption.

Join us on **Wednesday, February 14th** as we begin this Journey to the cross. The Ash Wednesday Communion & Imposition of the Ashes Worship Service will be **at 6:30pm** in our Sanctuary.