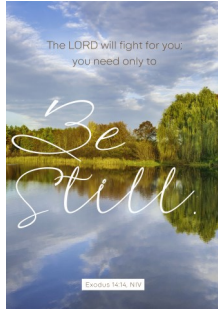


# WESTMINSTER WITNESS

JULY/AUGUST 2021

“GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE”

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE



### A Message from Pastor Mike

*He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

*Psalm 46:10-11*

### Realignment needed!

“Your car is out of alignment.” These are words that I have heard often over the years when my cars have been in the shop. Somehow, my vehicle’s tires fall out of alignment during my time on the road. I’m never quite sure how the car gets misaligned, but it’s easy to tell when you’re behind the wheel driving. Maybe your tire treads have faded away or maybe you’ve bumped a few too many curbs or maybe it’s simply the normal wear and tear of your vehicle. Whatever the reason, we all know the feeling of having an automobile that is not driving as true and as straight as it once did. When this occurs, the only way to correct it and to avoid more damage is to have your car realigned.

I have been your Pastor and your friend for over 18 years, and I want to share honestly with you all that I feel like I need a realignment. Vocationally, pastorally, and

personally, I feel that I need a slight course correction. Over the years of blessed service here at WPC, the treads on my tires have worn down. I have bumped a few curbs, and I have put plenty of mileage on this car that I am driving. Through much prayer and on the advice of people that I trust, I am seeking a pastoral and personal realignment. In ministry terms, this realignment is referred to as a **Sabbatical Leave**. Such a leave is given for rest, renewal, and growth. Our Presbytery recommends that Sabbatical Leaves be given to Pastors and Church Educators once every 6 years. In the past, I have always felt that I was not in need of such a break, but now, that sense of needing a realignment has grown.

I am so thankful that our Session has granted my request for a 10-week Sabbatical Leave this Fall. The focus of my Sabbatical is taken from Psalm 46:10, “*Be Still and Know...*” Over this leave, along with my loving wife and partner in ministry, I will be striving for a stillness in my life as well as an increased knowledge of God’s presence in all that I do and am. I have developed a structured plan that I feel confident will align me with the love and peace of Jesus Christ. I know that God will use this time to provide

renewal, discernment, and growth for not only myself and my wife, but also this congregation.

I realize that there are many questions and uncertainties that will come from this, but please trust that Pastor Britt, our Session and Deacons, and our Staff, are and will be prepared and equipped to lead this congregation.

Over the next two months, my door, as always, is open to anyone, and I would love to talk with you about this Sabbatical. God bless, and I would appreciate you keeping me and my wife in your prayers; please know that you are in ours as well.

Pastor Mike

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### Senior Pastor Sabbatical Leave

#### ***Be Still and Know... A Time of Restoration, Growth, and Faithfulness*** **September 13th, 2021 – November 21st, 2021**

At the June Session Meeting and with consultation from our Presbytery, a sabbatical leave was approved for Rev. Olmsted for the 10 weeks of September 13th through November 21st. A detailed plan for this leave is available at the church office for any who wishes to see its components. According to our Presbytery, a Sabbatical is an “extended time away which is qualitatively different from a ‘vacation’ or ‘days off.’ It is a time for an individual to strategically disengage from regular tasks so that ministry and mission may be viewed from a new perspective. It is an extension of the Biblical concept of Sabbath and is meant for study, reflection, and growth.”

During this time, Rev. Wundermachen will be operating as the Head of Staff, Moderator of Session, and providing leadership for the church as a whole. However, the church is more than just its leadership, it is truly about its people and our God. There will be many opportunities for all of you to step into new roles and help lead this congregation. Together, this will be a time in which we renew our vision of “Growing in Faith and Reaching Out in Love.”

### ‘The Crossing’ Youth Ministries

July 7th—9am Valleyfair (please RSVP by July 5th)

July 10th—18th—Youth Mission Trip, Lorain County, Ohio

July 31st—8am Hiking at Whitewater State Park



August 6th—Time TBD—Chateau Speedway

August 11th—5:30-7:30 Pop-Up Movie Night

August 15th—Mission Trip Sunday

August 18th—8:30am Kayaking at the N.C.



# Deacon News

## May 4th meeting

We opened our meeting with scripture from John 12:1-8 which followed into a devotion on offerings and worship. We know we are able to offer our time, money, and talents and that we are all gifted differently. We seek to use these gifts as we minister to our congregation.

During this month, 9 meals were delivered to congregants. We reviewed our care lists and made sure we had contact with homebound members. We also discussed future welcome gift bags for our visitors.

## June 1st meeting

We opened our meeting with a devotional from Henri Nouwen's 'You are the Beloved' talking about joy. During this month, 6 meals were delivered to congregants. We reviewed our care list and made sure we had reached out to everyone that we could.

We also discussed having a welcome table and greeters for our summer outdoor worship.

Betsy Wuebker has stepped up to be our Deacon Chairperson for the remainder of the year.

Finally, if you are interested in helping out with making and delivering meals, please talk to Pastor Britt, Meridee Ofstedahl, or Louise Berhow to get added to the list.

# Session News

## Session News and Happenings from May and June

Your Session met in person on May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup>. We have continued exploring what it means to be a purposeful church and how we can have a 5-Block Focus. Below are the discussions and actions of Session that have taken place over the past two months:

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

*Membership: Kalli Potter – POF; Mark & Nancy Lenz – LOT; Harold Boverhuis – ROF*

*Baptisms Performed: Harper Braaten - 5/23/21*

*Baptism Requests: Brody David Berhow for 7/11/21;*

*Lincoln Massmann (Private) 8/8/21*

*Lord's Supper was served collectively on 5/2/21 & 6/6/21; individually on 6/2/21 & 6/7/21.*

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

*Personnel/Finance made a motion to approve a \$500 Educational Scholarship to graduating Senior Lexi Gerber. They approved the change of the Children's Music Director to a 12-month position. Discussion was had about the parting of the ways with Cinde Goskeson and how we will begin the process for filling the Children's Ministry Director opening. The April and May Treasurer's Reports from Co-Treasurer, Bill Momsen, were approved.*

*Facilities/Grounds is working on improving our water quality. They approved Tree Removal bid for \$920 and the repair of outdoor lighting for \$910.*

*Worship/Outreach approved Summer Outdoor Worship from 6/13 – 9/5 and discussed our new COVID Protocols. They reported on their Congregational Survey (results are being compiled and looked at.) They are scheduling Special Music for the Summer. They reported on a Corn & Pork Feed as a Community Outreach for 8/25 at 5:30pm.*

*Mission/Fellowship approved the following Mission Fund disbursements: David Yoon Ministry - \$1000; Cathy Chang - \$500; APS - More Than Pink - \$200; WPC VBS - \$500; Vanessa Krell – YWAM - \$200. They served cake on 5/23 & 5/30; are helping with refreshments during Fellowship time, and are planning the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ice-Cream Social.*

*Nurture/Discipleship reporting on end-of-year activities, VBS, and Summer Youth Events. Gave direction on Youth Mission Trip and lack of adult advisors. Thanked Cinde Goskeson for all her work and efforts over the many years and for the positive impact she has made on this church and its people.*

*Session voted on and approved the following: Usage of FH by Mueller Family on 7/17/21; New Copier Contract for church; election of Eric Potter & Bill Momsen as Co-Treasurers; Rev. Olmsted's Sabbatical Leave; increase of pay for Rev. Wundermachen as she covers for Rev. Olmsted's leave; closure of the church office on all Fridays in July; retroactively approved repairs made to the church van; 2021 Insurance Coverage. Session heard from Sue Goodspeed, the Co-Moderator of the COM from our Presbytery, regarding Rev. Olmsted's 10-Week Sabbatical Leave Request from September 13th through November 21st. Meetings were closed with prayer and the singing of the Doxology.*



## WPC Staffing Opportunities

We have an open position for the Director of our Children's Ministries. We are looking for someone who is relationally focused. This person would reach out and engage with our young families and provide opportunities for service and education throughout the year. We have begun the process of searching and praying for the right individual to fill this opening. If you or anyone you know might be interested in this position, please contact the Pastoral Staff or our Personnel and Finance Committee. Job descriptions are available for this position in the church office as well. We prayerfully trust and know that God will continue to provide the right people for our staff, and that through their unique gifts, we will be blessed.

## *A Special Thank You from the Olmsted Family*

We want to thank our wonderful Westminster Family for all your prayers, support, beautiful cards, and delicious meals during this difficult time. We cannot fully express how much you have all helped us as we mourn the loss of Coleen's Brother, Dennis, but your love and compassion have blessed us richly.

*Love; Mike, Coleen, Tommy, Stephanie, and Jeremy*



The Sunshine Singers are continuing their meetings on Sundays after children are dismissed from the service until the end of the service. These meetings are including mini "lessons" corresponding with the sermon themes as well as lots of familiar camp-like songs, dances, and instrument playing! Thank you all for your support of the Children's Music Ministry throughout the year.

*Emma Evans-Peck, Director*



Cinde Goskeson, our Children's Education Director, concluded her time here at Westminster on June 24<sup>th</sup>. We thank her for the gifts she has brought to this position and for the faithful heart with which she has served. She has loved our children and shared with them the love and hope of our savior, Jesus Christ. As she transitions into this new phase of life, we pray for God's wisdom and guidance in her life.



**Spirit Ringers** will plan to resume rehearsals on September 1. We are hoping to return to a full choir. If you have an interest in ringing, please contact me. It is important that you be able to read music so you can pick out your notes, as everything we do is teamwork. I will be happy to work with anyone so that you are comfortable with the basics.

You can reach me at [annflis44@charter.net](mailto:annflis44@charter.net)

**Rainbow Ringers** will resume in September. This is open to anyone in third grade and above.

*Ann Flisand, Spirit Ringers &  
Rainbow Ringers Director*



### *A Message of Thanks*

*I am sincerely thankful to have had the opportunity to serve this congregation, our children and families, and the community since 2002. My goal for all children was to teach them about God's Salvation and that He loves them; that God is there for everyone and to always look to God for guidance and comfort. I hope I have accomplished sharing this message in some way. I have been richly blessed by the children and youth as well as this congregation. It has been a privilege to pray for the children and serve God in this church, and it has been wonderful to grow in Christ through this experience. I look forward to seeing what God has planned for me, and I will continue to humbly seek Him. "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy." (Philippians 1: 3, 4)*

*Cinde Goskeson*

Even though the Chancel Choir is not performing this summer, there is ample opportunity for small family groups and individuals to provide music for a summer outdoor service. Please contact Brenna Gerhart, Kim Potter, or Cindy Jayes if you would like to participate. We had such a wonderful response during the school year. Many thanks to all of you who performed!

The family choir is scheduled to sing the last Sunday in August, so hopefully we will have a great turnout for that!

*Sue Radloff, Chancel Choir & Westminster Strings Director*



Trunk or Treat Coming this Fall, Sunday afternoon, Oct. 31st, 2pm

Trunk or Treat is coming again this Fall on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 31st. We will have our Trunk or Treat Volunteers decorate their car trunks and can even dress up in a costume themselves. Kids will get to trick or treat at each decorated vehicle. We will need “trunkers” who will decorate their vehicle and pass out candy which you have supplied. If you are willing to be a “trunker” volunteer, sign up with Pastor Britt. What an amazing opportunity to share the Gospel with our neighbors!



*Adalyne Mae Larson on April 11, 2021*

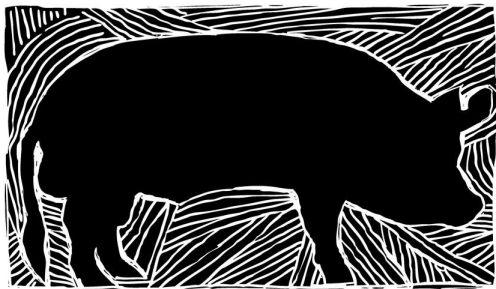
*Kamryn Helfritz on April 11, 2021*

*Harper Anne Braaten on May 23, 2021*



*Kalli Potter was confirmed on  
May 23, 2021*

**Corn & Pork  
Community**



**Outreach**

**Wednesday, August 25th**  
**5:30 p.m.**

Our Corn & Pork Feed is back on this year as a community outreach!  
Join us for pulled pork, baked beans, fresh corn on the cob, coleslaw, fun, & fellowship!





**July Birthdays**

- 1 Colin Clennon
- 1 Selene Schulz
- 1 Grace Vortherms
- 2 Parker Armagost
- 2 Amber Jones
- 3 John Lembrick
- 4 Steve Berhow
- 5 Jeremy Olsen
- 6 Kim Potter
- 6 John Taylor
- 7 Cindy Jayes
- 7 Carol King
- 8 Ariana Shapinsky
- 8 Olivia Shapinsky
- 9 Luke Berhow
- 10 Austin Pelletier
- 14 Lincoln Massmann
- 14 Gary Ofstedahl
- 15 McKenzie Pelletier
- 17 Amelia Greeley
- 17 Samuel Vortherms
- 18 Drew Szyszkowski
- 20 Fayth Nystel
- 21 Amy Horihan
- 21 Nancy Roberts
- 21 Erik Sherman
- 22 Sam Gasner
- 23 Mackenzie Armagost
- 24 Betty Bender
- 27 Sandy Nelson
- 28 Christopher Levai
- 28 Eeva Nelson
- 28 Tara Watkins
- 31 Taylor Peterson
- 31 Nicholas Wehner

**August Birthdays**

- 1 Steven Clennon
- 1 Gary Wedeking
- 2 Ben Diang
- 3 Max Coffey
- 4 Marcus Stoullil
- 5 Tori Watkins
- 6 Karen Rothgery
- 7 Katelyn Coleman
- 7 Jacky Dietz
- 8 Andrew Horihan
- 8 Alexander Nelson
- 8 Wesley Roush
- 9 Sara Sayles
- 9 Lisa Tapp
- 10 Calvin Jones
- 10 Clair Sorenson
- 11 Mark Lenz
- 12 Randy Arhart
- 12 Henry Armagost
- 12 Roy Baker
- 13 Peggy Queensland
- 13 Jacob Wedeking
- 15 Charlie Lanchantin
- 15 Trish Szyszkowski
- 16 Jack Berthiaume
- 17 Joan Isele
- 18 Rick Stoullil
- 19 Kenneth Dippell
- 19 Jan Huisken
- 20 Gene Crabtree
- 21 Brady Crabtree
- 22 Beverly Bridgeman
- 22 Ezra Lassiter
- Caleb
- 23 Wundermachen
- 25 Rick Young
- 26 Karen Johnson
- 29 Brielle Bires
- 30 George Moore
- 31 Laura Larson



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

Seth Clasen -  
Army

Bryce Gerber - Marines

Christine Hiegel - National Guard

Paul Mueller - National Guard (Africa)

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

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.



Donald Erickson  
May 2, 2021

Robert Knutson  
June 21, 2021



**Summer Church Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday 8:30am—4pm

Closed on Fridays in July

Fridays in August: 8:30am—12:30pm



# Church Directory UPDATE



New address for Drew & Trish Szyszkowski Family:  
14851 Hwy 105  
St. Ansgar, IA 50472

New address for Nicole Sorenson Family :  
1403 3rd Ave SW  
Austin, MN 55912

New Address: for Rachel Dickman & Sean Selmecki Family  
55921 County Road 4  
Plainview, MN 55964

New address for Josh & Amber Jones Family:  
702 29th Ave SE  
Austin, MN 55912

New email for Cassie & Pete Walker:  
ca2thguy@gmail.com

New address for Dale Anderson:  
700 1st Dr NW #130  
Austin, MN 55912

New cellphone number for Jake Hiegel:  
213-433-1112

## Welcome our new members!



- Harold Boverhuis - Reaffirmation of Faith*
- Renee Harnack - Certificate of Transfer*
- Tom Harnack - Reaffirmation of Faith*
- Kamryn Helfritz - Reaffirmation of Faith*
- Mark Lenz - Certificate of Transfer*
- Nancy Lenz - Certificate of Transfer*



A very special thank you for the cards, calls, and well wishes during our accident, surgery, and then birthday. Our church family is so special, and we certainly have missed you all!  
God bless!  
Love, Joan and Bob Schwab

### Ways you can **SERVE**

#### Church Office Volunteers Needed

Do you have some free time to come in and help with phone coverage this summer? We are in need of help, mostly in July, Tuesday—Thursday. Please call the office at 433-3258 to volunteer!!  
Thank you!





## 2021 RUMMAGE SALE

**Friday, October 1, 2021**

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**

As you are cleaning and sorting during the weeks ahead, please consider starting your **"take-to-the-Rummage Sale"** box. Contact Gloria Aanonson or Dayle Wedeking if you have questions.

**Items accepted** are good, clean clothing for children, women and men (including plus sizes), shoes, small furniture, sporting goods, Christmas decorations, knick-knacks, linens, small household appliances (in working order), dishes, games, toys, puzzles, and books.

## Festival of the Nativities 2021

**Friday, December 3, 2021**

**Saturday, December 4, 2021**



Westminster will host our Annual Festival of the Nativities, a nondenominational, FREE, family event open to the community.

The focus is the season of preparation for Christ's birth through the lighted display of Nativities. Seasonal Christian music, children's crafts, and refreshments are also special features at this event.

**Remember: Please mark your calendars!**



## Westminster Presbyterian Church's Fourth of July Ice-Cream Social

We will be serving Ice-Cream and Root-beer Floats on the Westminster East Lawn from 2 - 4 on Independence Day. This is free and open to the public. It's a great way to get to know our neighbors! Come out and help, or come and have some!

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
802 4TH ST SW  
AUSTIN, MN 55912  
WWW.WESTMINSTERAUSTIN.COM  
(507) 433-3258

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

+ CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

July/August 2021



**Come and join us on our East Lawn every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. from now until September 5th! Our summer services are more casual, so bring your lawn chairs, beverage, and your bible and enjoy a donut after the service. Folding chairs will be set up as well. Let's worship together in this beautiful outdoor space we are so lucky to have at our church!**



(Worship will move indoors for bad weather.)

