

WESTMINSTER WITNESS

JULY/AUGUST 2023

“GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE”

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE

Join in on the Summer Fun at Westminster

As is our practice, the Summer months bring a more concise Westminster Witness to you for July and August. Our regular schedules slow down a bit, but there are still a few things we want everyone to know about. So, take a few minutes while relaxing under the Summer Sun and look at what we've got going on. Be sure to join us for any or all of the Summer events as well as our regular Sunday Morning Worship.

So check out what's inside, and be sure to join us as we seek to live our lives as believers with a "Loaves and Fishes" mindset!
God Bless and Have a Great Summer! Pastor Mike



Wednesday, August 23rd

5:30 p.m.

Our FREE Corn & Pork Feed is back this year as well as the Classic Car Show as a community outreach! Join us for pulled pork, fresh corn on the cob, coleslaw, baked beans, dessert, root beer, cars, fun, & fellowship!



FOOD Packing

'Real Hope for the Hungry'

Food Packing Sunday, August 27th

immediately following
our Service:

Everyone is welcome to join us for our annual Food Packing Event as we pack specially formulated, highly nutritious meals that will be shared locally and globally. This is for all ages, and we look forward to serving together as we provide real hope for those who are hungry!

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L.I.F.T.
Youth
Ministries

All youth are invited to join us on Thursday, July 6th for a Nacho Lunch and Summer Catch-Up. We'll be meeting at the church at noon. RSVP with Pastor Britt by July 5th.



Monday, July 10th—Middle School Girls' Coffee. Join us for coffee and discussion. We'll meet at the church at 9am and then head over to Caribou. RSVP by July 9th with Pastor Britt.



Service
&
Ice Cream

Join us on **Thursday, August 17th at 4pm** to serve at Ruby's Pantry at the Mower County Fairgrounds. After we finish serving, we'll head back to the church for some Ice Cream and Fellowship.

All Mission Trip Participants are asked to attend the Worship Service on Sunday, July 16th as the church commissions us and has an opportunity to pray for us as we gear up for our week of service. We will be leaving after the service.



We've had a fun year with all our events. Thanks to all who came out and joined in our times of fellowship. We will be taking the months of July and August off. Can't wait to see you all in September!



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 have some!



All Ladies are invited to our monthly birthday lunches on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, meeting at Bella Victoria at noon.

Please RSVP to Selene Schulz 507-438-3299, to be included in the group reservation! Bring a friend!



Thank you all for a great year! Thank you to the families, the helpers, and, of course, all the kiddos who sang with us this year! Sunshine Singers will continue to meet at 10am during worship services on Sundays throughout the summer (except outdoor services. Wednesday night meetings will restart in the fall. I look forward to more great music, fun, and worship ahead!

-Ms. Emma



- 1 Colin Clennon
- 1 Brooke Hamilton
- 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 Jeremy Langer
- 15 McKenzie Pelletier
- 17 Amelia Greeley
- 17 Samuel Vortherms
- 18 Drew Szyszkowski
- 20 Fayth Nystel
- 21 Amy Horihan
- 21 Nancy Roberts
- 21 Erik Sherman
- 21 Wesley Sherman
- 22 Kirby Coordes
- 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

- 1 Steven Clennon
- 1 Gary Wedeking
- 2 Ben Diang
- 3 Max Coffey
- 3 Joe Pacovsky
- 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 Brad Owens
- 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 Diana Limon-Coordes
- 13 Peggy Queensland
- 13 Jacob Wedeking
- 15 Carson Coordes
- 15 Trish Szyszkowski
- 16 Jack Berthiaume
- 17 Joan Isele
- 18 Rick Stoullil
- 19 Kenneth Dippell
- 19 Jan Huisken
- 20 Gene Crabtree
- 20 Kathy Owens
- 21 Brady Crabtree
- 22 Beverly Bridgeman
- 22 Ezra Lassiter
- Caleb Wundermachen
- 23 Rick Young
- 26 Karen Johnson
- 29 Brielle Bires
- 29 Lola Hanson
- 30 George Moore
- 31 Laura Larson
- 31 Steve Rodewald



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

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

Seth Clasen - Army

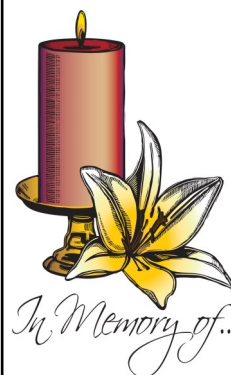
Bryce Gerber - Marines

Christine Gaskel - 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.



Sid Brown
May 30, 2023

Darlene Perry
June 16, 2023

Church Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 8:30am—4pm

Fridays: 8:30am—12:30pm



Session News

Deacon News

May Meeting

We opened up with a devotion that consisted of the third in our series from our “Loaves and Fishes” Officers Retreat. Our video this month was called “Trust the Multiplier.” We talked about the need to trust God. We can do that better when we remember his character and promises. God will continue to multiply the good in our lives for his glory and because of his great love.

We also reviewed our care lists, making sure that the congregants we have in nursing homes or homebound have been reached out to. We also reviewed any hospitalizations to make sure we were up to date on how people were doing. We continue to reach out to as many of our members as possible through cards, phone calls, and visits.

We were able to bring nine meals to people in April. Our meal ministry continues to bring meals to those in need after surgery, during illness, or after birth. If you know of anyone who might need meals brought to them, please contact one of your deacons or Pastor Britt.

June Meeting

We opened up with a devotion that consisted of the fourth in our series from our “Loaves and Fishes” Officers Retreat. Our video this month was called “Give to the Multiplier.” We talked about how we need to give back to God. Last month we looked into trusting in God that set the foundation for us to give back to him. When we realize all that we have comes from him in the first place, we can relinquish control and give back to God to continue to bless others.

We continued to review our care lists, making sure that the congregants we have in nursing homes or homebound have been reached out to. We also reviewed any hospitalizations to make sure we were up to date on how people were doing. We continue to reach out to as many of our members as possible through cards, phone calls, and visits.

We’ve decided we want to be able to give small gift bags as well for those who might need some extra love after a diagnosis or time of grief. So, we have begun to organize and buy things for that.

We were able to bring three meals to people in May. Our meal ministry continues to bring meals to those in need after surgery, during illness, or after birth. If you know of anyone who might need meals, please contact one of your deacons or Pastor Britt.

Session News and Happenings from May & June, 2023

Your Session met on May 16th and June 20th. Each meeting was opened with prayer and a meditation on ministry was given. We explored what it means to give to the Great Multiplier and live out the message of the Loaves and Fishes. Below are the discussions and actions of Session that took place over the past two months:

Items Approved in our Clerk’s Report:

Membership: *Removed from Membership Rolls (per their request) Beth and Lemoyne Anderson and their adult children Wendy, Tony, and Cathy. Rec’d Confirmands: Dax Boverhuis, Brooke Fisch, Asah Rapha Ngi. Received into membership: Russell Fisch (PoF). Baptism Performed: Asah Rapha Ngi (5/21/23 – BW). Baptism Requested: Lucas, Kirby, and Aubrey Coordes (7/2/23), Ila Mae Hernandez (8/20/23), Claire Sorenson (8/20/23). Deaths: Lonnie Houff (4/24); Sid Brown (5/30/23), Darlene Perry (6/16/23). Lord’s Supper: Served corporately on 5/5/7/23 & 6/4/22; individually on 4/27/23.*

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

Faith Forward Fund Task Force presented their proposal of a renewed understanding and usage of what was formerly known as “The Hocker Fund”.

Personnel/Finance approved a \$500 Educational Scholarship to our HS Seniors: Lydia Baron, Cameron Olson, Russell Fisch, Ben Diang, and Rachel Toland. Approved the renewal of our Property & Liability Insurance. The committee also received a letter expressing concerns with our financial reporting. This was reported to Session and corrections were made. The committee will also look into possible changes with our internal auditing.

Facilities/Grounds approved the removal of two large trees south of the porte cochere. The Fire Department came and inspected our facilities, and four minor violations were found. We are in the process of correcting these issues.

Worship/Outreach approved Summer Outdoor Worship for June 18th, July 16th, August 20th. Also approved making available Gluten-Free Wafers for our Communion Services. They scheduled Special Music for the Summer.

Mission/Fellowship They served the celebration treats on 5/21 and 5/28 and faithfully worked and served for the Vetslandslag 2023 and the VBS/All Church BBQ. They are planning for the 4th of July Ice Cream Social, the Community Corn and Pork Feed and Car Show Extravaganza on Wed., Aug. 23rd. They are keeping our Food Pantry filled on Wednesdays and Sundays. Discussed the Food Packing Event on 8/27.

Nurture/Discipleship reporting on end-of-year activities, VBS, and Summer Youth Events. In May, we welcomed in 3 confirmands into church membership with one receiving an Adult Baptism. Thanked all volunteers and staff for their extra work on VBS this year.

General Session Approvals: *Approved the formation of the Property Projects Planning Task Force to consider possible property needs in the future. The FFF proposal was approved by Session on May 16th and was presented to the Congregation on June 11th. The FFF Task Force was officially disbanded by Session on June 20th. Session received with regret the resignation of Steve Rodewald as an Elder and we expressed our gratitude for his service. Approved April and May Treasurer’s Reports.*

Meetings were closed with prayer and the singing of the Doxology.



Church Directory

UPDATE

A red arrow pointing to the left, positioned below the word 'UPDATE'. To the right of the arrow is a vertical column of seven red dots, with a horizontal line of four red dots extending to the left from the bottom dot.

Change of phone number for:

Steve Berhow
507-438-8295
No more land line



We had 42 children attend Vacation Bible School, 16 youth lead crews between stations, 12 adults/youth teach in the stations, 9 chefs prepare and serve food, 2 helpers at the registration table, and 1 VBS Grandma.

We learned:

When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light! John 8:12

When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light! Romans 12:16

When good things happen, shine Jesus' light! Psalm 100:1

When people are sad, shine Jesus' light! John 14:1

And, When people need help, shine Jesus' light! Matthew 5:16

Thank you to ALL who volunteered of their time, their talent, their treasure, and their hearts to make our VBS a wonderful success. Thank you to those who prayed for the children, their families, the volunteers, the staff, and our church. You are appreciated!

Westminster Presbyterian's VBS really was out of this world! Thank you God!

Laura Carlson

Children's Ministry Director

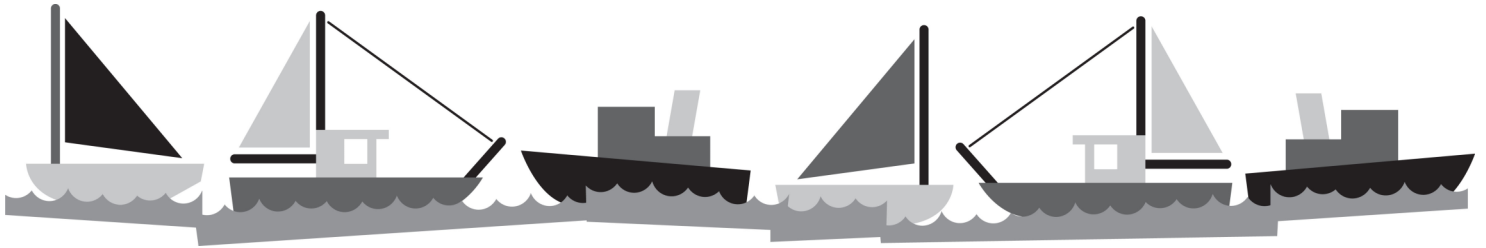


Let the Light of Christ
shine for all to see.



Join us this Summer as we let the Light of Christ shine for all to see.

Our preaching series this Summer is “Shining in the Darkness – The Letters of John.” We will explore 1, 2, and 3 John as the ‘Evangelist’ teaches us about how to walk in the Light and to proclaim the Truth of Christ for all to hear. As the Beloved Disciple’s earthly life was drawing to an end, he penned some of the most personal and powerful words for all believers to hear. We, like the early Church, will use these words to guide us forward in a world that seeks to lead us astray. So, join us as we use Warren Wiersbe’s Commentary, “Be Real – Turning from Hypocrisy to Truth” to give us the framework to navigate our path as Christ’s Church.



2023 RUMMAGE SALE



Friday, October 6, 2023

Saturday, October 7, 2023

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. You may bring in your items starting September 18th to the stage area in the Fellowship Hall.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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(507) 433-3258

Non-Profit
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Permit # 330
Austin, MN 55912

+ CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

July/August 2023



Come and join us on July 16th and August 20th at 9:30am out on our East Lawn for our Outdoor Worship. We will have our Summer Worship leaders: Emma Evans-Peck & Lorene Strobel leading us, along with specialty hot & cold coffees and teas available before, during, and after the Service. Please join us immediately following the Service for Fellowship & Cookies. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs (or use a folding chair provided) and your bible and let's Worship On The Lawn!