

# WESTMINSTER WITNESS

MARCH/APRIL 2022

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE



*"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." Psalm 23:5*

### Setting the Table

One of my childhood family chores was setting the dinner table. I remember it vividly – putting out the placemats, folding the napkins, placing the silverware in just the right spot (I still don't know which side of the plate the fork is supposed to go!), getting out the salt and pepper and the butter and making sure everything was ready for the meal. It was quite the process, and as a child, it was not one that I always enjoyed. However, it taught me the value and the importance of preparation. There would be no banquet of food if the table had not already been set. This preparation set the stage for the blessings that were to follow.

Our Psalmist understood this as well. Think as to where we are in this Psalm. The Good Shepherd has just guided us bravely and painstakingly through Death's Valley. His tools of protection and correction have delivered us now to the table of abundant blessing. No Shepherd would try to feed his flock in the rocky crags and cliffs of this dark valley. They would wait until

all had emerged to the lush table lands of the fertile fields that lay before them. Even though the threat of the enemies around them was still present, the sheep would confidently eat and find their nourishment from the bounty that had been prepared for them.

This is the table of blessing that our God has prepared for each one of us. It is not a table of scraps and leftovers. It is a table of abundance. In my family, holiday meals and family celebrations meant one thing – whatever table we were at would not be large enough to hold all the different platters and bowls and plates that were filled with delicious and sustaining food. This is the image of the table that has been prepared for us by our Shepherd. In the ancient Near East, such banquets were presented as a symbol of a covenant or promise made between kings and rulers. The quality of the banquet was an indication of the value or the worth of this agreement. It was also customary to anoint the honored guest of the banquet with oil. Both the banquet and the anointing indicated the importance of the one being served.

Our Lord has prepared an eternal banquet of Glory and has anointed us with his redeeming and renewing oil of salvation. We are his honored guests, and he has prepared a blessing of grace, love and strength for each one of us. Through the life and death of Jesus Christ, we have all been invited to the Banquet Table that has been

prepared for us by the sacrifice of the Cross and that has been sealed for us in the shed blood of our Savior. God has spared no expense and has laboriously prepared a table for you and me. It is the Table of eternal victory and peace. Let us go to the banquet, sit at his table, and enjoy the overflowing blessing of his love. Amen!

*God Bless;  
Pastor Mike*

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# Season of Lent: “The Lord’s Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer that Jesus Taught”

Sunday Morning Worship

Wednesday Evening Lenten Vespers Services

March - April



## A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

*“This, then, is how you should pray” (Matthew 6:9)*

In Luke 11, one of Christ’s disciples asks simply, “Lord, teach us how to pray.” What follows is Jesus Christ’s great instructions on prayer – what we now call “The Lord’s Prayer.” This Lenten Season, we will focus on this prayer. Through both our Sunday Morning Worship and our Wednesday Vespers Services, we will learn how to really pray to our God. We will explore the six petitions in the prayer and how they can lead us to a vibrant and powerful prayer life. On Sunday mornings, we will be preaching through this prayer and learning how to apply it to our lives. On Wednesday Nights, we will enjoy Adam Hamilton’s new DVD series, ‘The Lord’s Prayer.’ These will be wonderful services of worship, reflection, and special music, and we also will be having separate breakout times for Children, Youth, and Adults. We will be augmenting our Lenten Series by offering a free Lenten Devotional, *Pocket Prayers – 40 Simple Prayers that Bring Peace and Rest*, by Max & Andrea Lucado.

We will also be returning to our traditional Wednesday Night Lenten Meals this year which will begin at 5:30pm starting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. *The free Lenten Devotionals will be available in the Narthex and the Church Office!*

***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

March 9<sup>th</sup> Nurture & Discipleship (CE) – Pork Loin Dinner, green beans, potatoes, & dessert

March 16<sup>th</sup> Men’s Fellowship – Baked Potato Bar and all the fixins’

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Deacons – Chicken & Rice Casserole, veggies, & dessert

March 30<sup>th</sup> Youth – Taco Salad and dessert bars

April 6<sup>th</sup> Mission & Fellowship

### The Lord’s Prayer



Each night of Lent, our children (4 years old-5th grade) and Youth up to Senior High will join us for the first part of the Worship Service. Then, the kids 4 years old to 5th grade will be excused for their own study time which will include a combination of a lesson and Sunshine Singers. The older Youth will have their own study time in the Youth Room. Throughout Lent, we will be studying the Lord’s Prayer. The nursery will be open for children up to 4.



**One Great Hour of Sharing** fish banks are swimming your way! During Lent, our children receive the fish banks. This collection is for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger Program, and Self Development Program.

\*Please return Palm Sunday.

**Lent Family Calendar**

The children were given a Lent Family Calendar on Sunday, February 27. This is an opportunity to be in God's Word and prepare for Easter as a family.

**Palm Sunday, April 10th**

The children will be involved in worship by waving the palms and singing! Please arrive by 9am for practice and instructions.



Please join us as we continue to learn about the Bible, learn our memory verses, and study God's Word. The children are enjoying our new Arts and Crafts room too! Their creations are amazing! We look forward to seeing the children at Sunday School.

**Sunday School**

**Grand Reopening**

Join us in the CE Wing on Sunday, March 6th as we unveil our new design along with t-shirts and our "Passport to Faith." We will encourage kids to grow in biblical knowledge, learn memory verses, and become active in missions.



**VBS**

**EWALU** 

Camp & Retreat Center **June 13th – 17th**

Register now for VBS! See Pastor Britt or Coleen Olmsted for more info.





*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 as the winter months can be very hard. The Austin community needs our help.

2021 Deliveries -

January - April: 272 pounds

May - August: 289 pounds

September - December : 288

**2021 total: 849 pounds**

January 2022 - 82 pounds

**Thank you, the Mission Committee**



## WPC FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to bring in boxed food products and bread to the church office that will keep outside in the below-freezing weather for our neighbors in need.

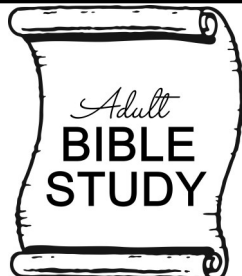


**Adventurer's Club**

*March 13th 2pm*—Irish Days  
*April 10th 2 pm*—Arts and Crafts  
*May 1st 2pm*—Game Day

**Good Earth Village Camp**

Hey Adventurers! Join us for a one-day camp experience at Good Earth Village on Tuesday, June 28th. Cost \$40. Sign up by June 1st (Scholarships available). This is open to graduating 1st graders—entering 5th graders.



### **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*

Beginning in March, we will be having a weekly Pastor’s Study on Sunday Mornings. It will meet in the Parlor at 11:00 and will be a time of discussion and further study of the morning Sermons as we go ‘beyond the pulpit.’ It will be led by our Pastors, and it will be a time of discussion, questions, and reflections which will add depth and insight to the morning’s message. In March, our focus will be on the Lord’s Prayer, and we will be using a study written by Adam Hamilton. Join us for this free flowing, yet informative time of biblical exploration.

*Wesley David Sherman  
Son of Alexandra & Erik Sherman  
Baptized on February 20, 2022  
Grandparents: Leanne & Dave Clasen*





**Lenten Taco Supper**

Our Lenten Taco Supper is coming up on March 30th. We ask that MT participants be here at 4:45 to set up, everyone else can come by 5:15 to help serve.



Please bring a pan of pre-cut bars for our dessert table.

Don't forget to join us for LIFT, and don't forget that you can bring a friend! Join us for games, food, fellowship, and discussions.

- Mar. 2—Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 9—Lenten Vespers
- Mar. 16—Lenten Vespers
- Mar. 23—Lenten Vespers
- Mar. 30—Lenten Vespers
- Apr. 6—Lenten Vespers
- Apr. 13—NO LIFT (Easter Week)
- Apr. 20—Pizza Ranch Fundraiser
- April 27—LIFT

- 3/6—Confirmation
- 3/13—Confirmation
- 3/20—Confirmation
- 3/27—Confirmation
- 4/3—Confirmation
- 4/10—Confirmation
- 4/17—No Confirmation (Easter)
- 4/24—Confirmation



Join us for an afternoon of bowling and laser tag @ Bowlocity Sunday, March 27th from 1-5 Cost: \$20.00 Bring a friend



Don't forget to register for the **Mission Trip to Oklahoma City, OK, on July 23rd-31st.** You don't

want to miss this amazing week of ministry. Please talk with Pastor Britt as soon as possible to get your spot reserved for this fantastic trip.



We will have meetings to prepare for our trip. These will take place during Wednesday night LIFT on: Mar. 23rd, May 25th, June 15th.



**Adult & Teen Challenge**  
Minnesota

Freedom from addiction starts [here](#).

## Special Worship on March 20<sup>th</sup>!!

Join us for a special Sunday Morning Worship experience on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. Our Youth Praise Team, **Ascending Truth**, will be leading our service and the message will be given by the wonderful folks from **MN Adult & Teen Challenge**.

We will hear incredible music from their hearts and hear inspiring stories of how God has brought them out of their addictions and into his grace and love. The messages will be powerful but we also center around adult themes so we

wanted to make sure our younger families are aware of this. But everything will be given in a Christ honoring and inspiring way. There will also be an opportunity to give a love offering at the end of the service to help support the work of MN Adult & Teen Challenge.

Following the Service, we are inviting our new friends to experience a delicious brunch together. Join us for a Sunday of Great Music, Inspiring Testimonies, and Delicious Food!!

## Strive Ministries (For Young Singles, Couples, and Families)

Join us this Spring for fellowship, study, and great times as we reengage with this wonderful ministry. Our Men's Strive and Women's Strive Bible Studies will be paralleling each other as we study "Live Rich Without Money" by Christian Comedian and Speaker Phil Callaway. The Men's Group will be meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month and the Women's Group will be meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. Both groups will meet in the Youth Room at 7:00pm, and light snacks will be provided. Check out our schedule for the Spring:

**Men's Strive** - March 21<sup>st</sup>; April 18<sup>th</sup>, and May 16<sup>th</sup>

**Women's Strive** - March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 25<sup>th</sup>, and May 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Also the Strive Fondue Event is Back!!!** All young singles, couples, and families of the church are welcome at the home of Greg and Jodi Vortherms on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for an evening of amazing fondue, wonderful conversation, and maybe even some entertaining games. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

## Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Help support our youth on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 4:30 to 8pm at Pizza Ranch for tip night as we raise funds for our Youth Mission Trip to Oklahoma City, OK.





*EGGs-traordinary*

Easter

*Adventure*



Join us beginning at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 16th for our

EGGs-traordinary Easter Adventure. This year, we'll be running this event differently, so get excited!

We will have a morning full of entertainment with Jim Jayes, Carnival Games, Crafts, Snacks, the Easter Story, and an Easter Egg Hunt.

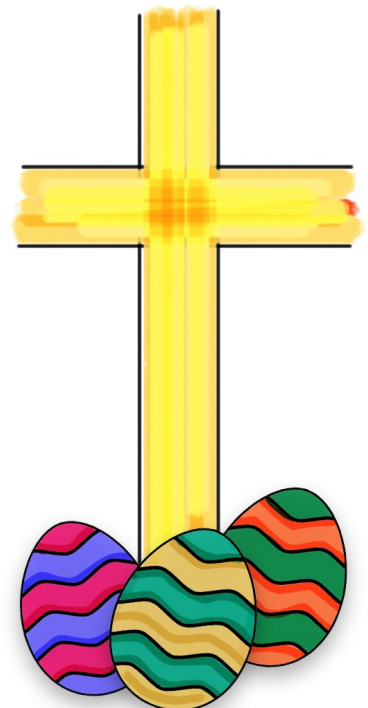
### Volunteers Needed!

**\*Volunteers are needed to**

- Help fill eggs
- Help run games during event
- Setting up event
- Cleaning up after event

**\*\*\*If you are interested please talk to Pastor Britt or Coleen Olmsted or a member of the Nurture and Discipleship Committee.**

We are now accepting donations for candy to fill our Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg hunt. If you are interested, please bring individually wrapped pieces of candy into the Church office by Monday, April 4th.





## Music News



### Chancel Choir

March 2nd will bring the first of the Lenten Services, and the Chancel Choir will be singing an anthem for it. They will also be singing on Sunday March 6th and 13th. In April, the choir will sing on the 3rd, 14th, Maundy Thursday, and April 17, which is Easter Sunday.

Due to Covid, the choir numbers have been around 6 singers, but hopefully, that will increase as the number of cases drops. You are welcome to join us at any time. We usually rehearse in the choir loft on the Wednesday evening before the Sunday that we sing at 7:20 p.m. We also have a warm-up rehearsal on Sunday at 8:45 a.m. Please contact Sue Radloff through the church office if you are interested.

Sue Radloff - Director



**Sunshine Singers are performing many times this spring, including March 20, April 6, and April 10!**

**We will be busy learning songs for these performances as well as our books of the Bible. A prize is rewarded to the singers who memorize the Old Testament and New Testament books.**

**Sunshine Singers practice on Wednesday nights at 5:30 and on Sundays at 10am during the Worship Service. This group is for kids 3 years old through 5th grade.**

Emma Evans-Peck - Director



**Spirit Ringers** will rehearse at 6:15 on Thursday, March 3rd, 10th, and 31st, and April 7th. All other rehearsals will be on Wednesday following the Lenten services. We play for church on March 27 and April 24.

*(Spirit Ringers is an adult bell ringing choir)*

Ann Flisrand - Director



Rainbow

*Ringers*

**Rainbow Ringers** will plan to play for the Lenten Service on March 9.

We will NOT rehearse on March 16 as it is spring break.

All other Wednesdays, we will rehearse at 4:45-5:25.

*(Rainbow Ringers is a bell ringing choir for children)*

Ann Flisrand - Director

### Music Directors:

Sue Radloff - Chancel Choir/Westminster Strings  
fiddlesue@yahoo.com

Lorene Strobel - Ascending Truth  
lorenestrobel@gmail.com

Emma Evans-Peck - Sunshine Singers  
e.evanspeck@westminsteraustin.com

Ann Flisrand - Bell Choirs  
annflis44@charter.net







- 1 Ulang Diang
- 1 Robert Schwab
- 2 Maxine Long
- 2 Nicole Sorenson
- 2 Eva Taylor
- 3 Emma Nelson
- 5 Leanne Clasen
- 5 Eira Nelson
- 10 Lindsey Bowman
- 10 Lonny Schulz
- 10 Amy Stouilil
- 12 David Clasen
- 14 Jaimeson McFarland
- 14 Kalli Potter
- 16 Bonnie Gerber
- 17 Thomas Mueller
- 18 Cyrene Berthiaume
- 18 Lindsay Bires
- 19 Nyanyeik Diang
- 19 Daryl Franklin
- 20 Emily Toland
- 21 Nora Nelson
- 26 Carmen Tribbett
- 30 Keegan Olsen

- 1 Ashley Gabbert
- 1 Sarah Hecimovich
- 1 Jodi Vortherms
- 2 Josh Berhow
- 2 Joyce Hovey
- 3 Garrett Larson
- 3 Gary Weaver
- 4 Jim Huisken
- 4 Eric Potter
- 4 Marlys Thiede
- 8 Elijah Kaercher
- 10 Riley Szyszkowski
- 11 Carolyn Meier
- 13 Dona Ziegler
- 15 Alta Gaines
- 16 Mary Boyenga
- 16 Joan Schwab
- 18 Isaac Clasen
- 23 Nik Gasner
- 23 Shannon McFarland
- 23 Bill Orcutt
- 25 Burton Magnuson
- 28 Lydia Baron
- 29 Jake Hiegel
- 30 Lenette Baron

**New Address:**  
 Christine Hiegel  
 801 S 4th Ave, #4  
 Albert Lea, MN 56007



Dale Anderson  
 January 16, 2022  
 Clark Toland  
 February 3, 2022  
 Bob Dahl  
 February 10, 2022



Benjamin Michael Walker  
 Born on 12/22/2021 to  
 Michael & Kelsey Walker  
 8 pounds, 15 ounces  
 Proud grandparents -  
 Nancy & Steve Walker

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Henry Scott & Jack Leroy Langer  
 Born on 1/20/2022 to  
 Samantha & Jeremy Langer  
 4 pounds, 7 oz & 5 pounds, 1 oz  
 Proud grandparents -  
 Cindy & Jim Jays



Cory Hernandez & Sarah Wermager on  
 December 21, 2021  
 Congratulations to  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wermager-Hernandez!!

If you or someone in your family has a birthday in March or April and it is 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.



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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



## Spotlight

This is the first in a series of articles about the missions that the Westminster Presbyterian Church Women support including local, national, and worldwide organizations. In this March/April issue of The Witness, the “spotlight” is on **The Seafarers Center of Duluth**.

Let’s pretend for a minute that we’re crewmen on a ship from the Philippines, traveling to the Duluth Port on Lake Superior. Crewmen can be on these cargo ships for as long as a year, not returning home at any time during that year. Some of us may remember the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959; which became a key to the U.S. economy, allowing nearly 1,000 ships to visit the Port of Duluth-Superior each year, moving roughly 38 million tons of cargo in 12 months.

Getting back to our adventure, when we left home, it was a balmy 80 degrees (the average temperature in the Philippines is 79 degrees). Arriving in the Duluth Port at -7 degrees, the experience has turned “COLD” and lonely, especially knowing that we’re expected to spend several days unloading cargo, and we have no warm clothing. Checking with more experienced

crewmen, we find out about **The Seafarers Center** which we wasted no time in finding. The **Duluth Seafarers Center** offers “a ministry of hospitality to those persons who work and visit ports in Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. The goal of the Center is to greet with Christian hospitality, the crews of ocean-going and freshwater ships when they come to port.” With some investigation, we find that there are phone and Wi-Fi routers to use to contact our friends and family back home, phone cards, free transport in the Center’s 12-passenger van to worship centers, health clinics, shopping centers, and downtown businesses. At Christmas time, the Center gives gifts and provides a chapel for prayer and meditation, as well as conversation and companionship at any time. For entertainment, there’s a pool table, ping pong, darts, and cable TV. For now, the warm clothing, a hot meal, and extended hand of friendship by Center volunteers and chaplain sounds mighty good.

Westminster Presbyterian Church Women have contributed money, warm gently used clothing, and knitted hats and scarves to **The Seafarers Center** for many years. If you like to knit or know someone who is looking for a project, we will be sending warm hats and scarves to the Center again in 2022. Please talk to any PWC Coordinating Team member about your wish to help out.



## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

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



The **SYMBOLIC SUPPER** is returning on **Wednesday, APRIL 13, 12:00 Noon** beginning in the Parlor with a Welcome. Participants are invited to pick up their meal and go to the Fellowship Hall where the lights are dimmed and the mood is quiet. This symbolic meal represents the foods served at the Last Supper in the Upper Room. A quiet service of music, communion, and readings of the Passover Week from Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem through the day of Resurrection is shared. This meaningful service helps us reflect on the blessings of Easter.

Following the Symbolic Supper, we will gather in the Parlor for a time of fellowship with coffee and dessert.

All members- women, men and youth - are invited to attend.

**Please sign up on the PWC Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall by April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Two small group Bible Study opportunities are open to ALL women in the Congregation. Plan to join one or both. **Pot Pourri Bible Study** meets **March 22, and April 26 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Church Parlor. We begin with a light supper of taco and or pepperoni pizza. RSVP to Gloria Aanonson @ 507-438-7393 your preference. STUDY: "Women of the Bible" an Anita Gutschick's Video Series. Their stories are filled with passion, power and purpose. In March, we will focus on Jarius' Wife who is "Free At Last." In April, it is the "Truth of the Matter" in queen Jezebel's story.

**Rebekah Bible Study** meets at **9:30 a.m. on March 23 and April 27** in the Church Parlor. STUDY: "Hop, Skip, and a Jump through the Psalms".

Contact – Selene Schulz @ 507-433-8377.

FYI: PWC will be hosting the Synod of Lakes & Prairies Coordinating Team April 8-10, 2022. This gathering of about 15 members in the PWC Synod will meet to plan programs for our region (MN, IA, NE, ND, SD, and WI). They will work on a mission project Friday afternoon, conduct a planning session on Saturday, finish up on Sunday, and attend worship. When you see these ladies, please make them feel welcome.

Easter Blessings,  
Gloria Aanonson, Moderaator





# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



## THE PENNY JAR –located in Fellowship Hall

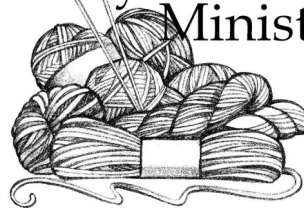
Coins are still being collected. PWC will continue to match all coins received and will be given to Austin Public Schools' Lunch Tray Program.

Austin Public Schools have recognized there is a segment of the parent population who doesn't qualify for any help and just misses the eligibility for free and reduced lunches. These are the kids who are lost in the shuffle; they're the children whose families are working hard but just don't make enough to pay for a hot lunch. It takes about \$450 per child, per year to provide hot lunches. Please be a Lunch Guardian Angel.

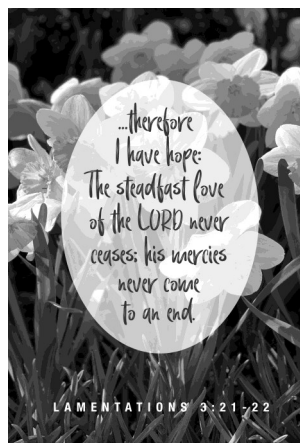


*Lunch Angel*

## Prayer Shawl Ministry



We meet in-person on Thursday mornings, 9:30 a.m. in the parlor. Please join us while we knit, crochet, or loom. If you don't do any of those things, there are ladies who would love to teach you. We have yarn, needles, crochet hooks, and looms for you, if you'd like to give it a try. Coffee and/or tea too. Everyone is welcome to join as often as they can!





# Session News

# Deacon News

## Session News and Happenings from January and February

Your Session met via Zoom on January 18<sup>th</sup> and in person on February 8<sup>th</sup>. *There was a Specially Called Session Meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> to approve our New Members and to approve a special offering for MNTC.* We said goodbye to our Class of 2022 Elders and welcomed in our new slate of Elders. Much of our work in January was spent on finalizing our 2022 Budget and closing out our 2021 ministries and calendars as well as discussing our Covid Protocols. In February at our Virtual Officers Retreat, we focused on our theme of a "Love Lived Out."

Below are the discussions and actions of Session that have taken place over the past two months:

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

*Baptism Request: Wesley David Sherman for Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022*  
*Deaths: Dale Anderson (01/16/22); Clark Toland (02/3/22)*  
*Membership: A New Members Class was held on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be having approximately 15 new members joining.*

*The Lord's Supper was served in Worship on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and to Clark Toland and Family on January 27<sup>th</sup>.*

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

Personnel/Finance conducted Annual Reviews for Pastors and Staff and welcomed our new Interim Children's Ministry Director, Coleen Olmsted. We discussed possible use of Hoeker Funds to add to our Mission Giving. This was 'tabled' for further discussion.

Facilities/Grounds began working on moving shelving in the Choir Loft into one of our CM Classrooms. There was plenty of repair work done on our Boiler System and on our Thermostats.

Worship/Outreach is scheduling the Special Music for our Lenten Worship and approved the Lenten Theme – Lord's Prayer. *Approved new Funeral & Wedding Fee structure for the church.*

Mission/Fellowship did not meet in January as all of the disbursements had been done. Sunday Morning Fellowship was suspended for three weeks but was opened up again on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Nurture/Discipleship approved our *Easter Eggstraordinary Adventure on April 16<sup>th</sup> as well as new dates for VBS (6/13-6/17 – Camp Ewalu) and our High School Mission Trip (7/23-7/30 – Next Step Ministries in OKC).* *The Youth Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast was approved for Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>.*

*The January Treasurer's Report from Church Co-Treasurers, Bill Momsen and Eric Potter and the 2022 Budget was approved. Greg Vortherms was approved as our Church President for 2022. Ann Sundal and Brenna Gerhart were approved again as our Presbytery Commissioners. Our 2022 Presbytery Giving was approved. Our 2021 Statistical Report was approved. The 2022 Communion Schedule was approved.*

Our meetings were closed with prayer.

## January meeting

This was our final meeting with our current slate of officers. We are thankful for those who have been serving and have now finished their terms: Bob & Linda Watson, John Taylor, Carol Young, and Cyrene Berthiaume. They have served faithfully and well and were a blessing to this ministry.

We opened our meeting with a prayer and devotion. We were reminded to center ourselves in Christ and then act from there. It is only with Christ at our center can we faithfully fulfill our ministry tasks.

We 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.

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, please contact one of your Deacons or Pastor Britt.

## February meeting

This was the first meeting with our new slate of officers. We are excited to welcome aboard: Carol Young, Sarah Wehner, and Tammy Coffey. We opened our meeting with a devotion as well as an overview of the upcoming Virtual Officers Retreat. We looked at the questions and the theme for this year which is "Love Lived Out."

We continued our meeting by electing Betsy Wuebker to be the Chairperson for this year. We then reviewed our Care List and assigned new deacons in place of the deacons that have finished their terms. We went through the Care Groups and assigned each deacon to a care group.

Since it is a new year, we went through each of the committee's and had an overview of what each one is responsible for before assigning a deacon to the head of that committee. Our "Greeters & Welcome Ministry" began discussing options for new welcome bags once our current supply runs out.

Our meeting was productive, and we look forward to this coming year and the continued care of the congregation.





## 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)



There are blue cards in the pews if you give online but would still like to put something in the offering plate.

Detailed instructions on how to give online are available on the welcome table.

Any questions, stop in the church office.

*Friendly  
Reminder* Keep filling the  
cereal cart!

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30am-4:00pm

Friday

8:30am-12:30pm

Phone: 507-433-3258



### 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 cancelled 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 the church answering machine or KAAL TV for church closings.

### 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 2022 is \$36.50 per member.**

### Staff Email Addresses

Rev. Michael Olmsted  
molmsted@westminsteraustin.com

Rev. Brittany Wundermachen  
b.wundermachen@westminsteraustin.com

Interim Director of Children's Ministries - Coleen Olmsted  
christianed@westminsteraustin.com

Office Administrator-Cindy Jayes  
secretary1@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/westminsteraustinmn](https://www.facebook.com/westminsteraustinmn)



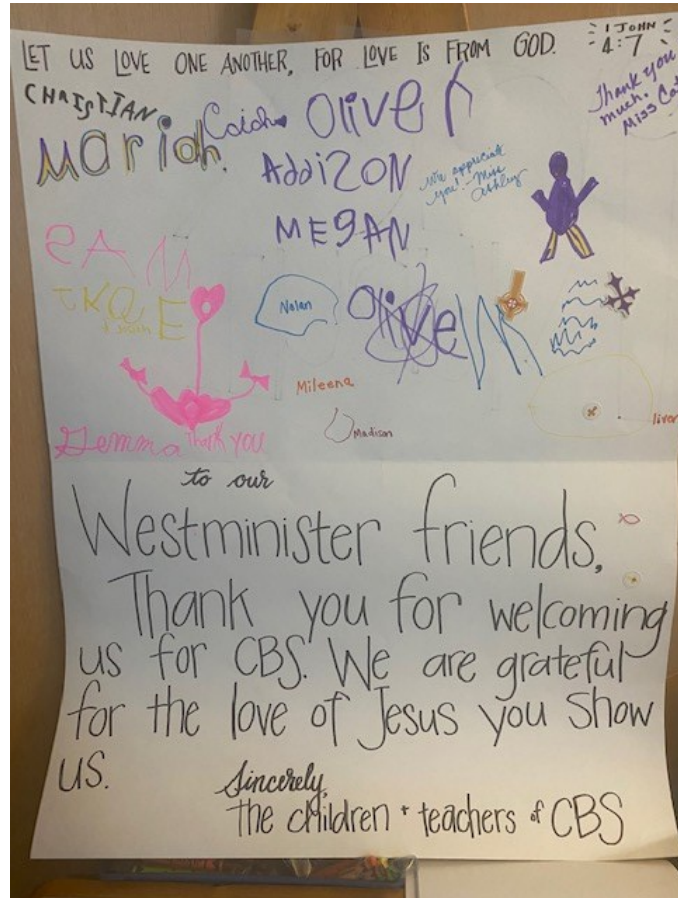
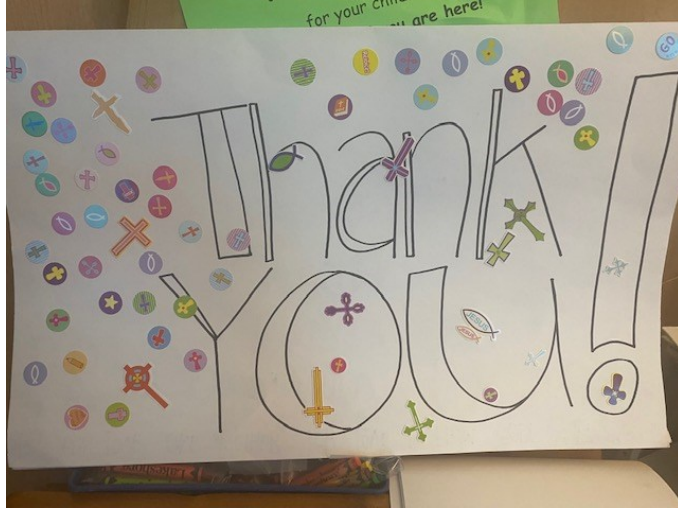
### CHURCH WEBSITE

Did you miss a sermon or want to hear one again? 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 website. All sermons are posted on the church website for your listening pleasure. 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.





# A Thank You from the CBS (Community Bible Study) kids to our Staff!



Yep it's that time again. Be sure to put your clock one hour ahead; daylight savings time starts On March 13th!



Huge shoutout to Gene Crabtree and this beautiful cross he made for our entryway! Thank you Gene!!!

- Alex Charlson (Jacky Dietz's great-nephew) - Army
- Seth Clasen - Army
- Bryce Gerber - Marines
- Christine Hiegel - National Guard
- Paul Mueller - National Guard
- 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.)*



Serving Our Country

**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**802 4TH ST SW  
AUSTIN, MN 55912  
(507) 433-3258**

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST**

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**March/April 2022**

**EASTER LILY CELEBRATION**

Easter is a special time of joy and new beginnings!

To celebrate life, let us bring the beauty of the Springtime Lily into our Sanctuary.

Complete this order form and leave it in the church office with your donation. Thank you!

Suggested donation per Easter Lily is \$15.00.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Or In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lilies: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (include with order please)

Yes, I will pick up \_\_\_\_\_ or No, I will not pick up \_\_\_\_\_



\*Easter Lilies can be picked up after the service on April 17th .

**ORDER DEADLINE IS March 27th**