

WESTMINSTER WITNESS

MARCH/APRIL 2023

“GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE”

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE



As many of you know, for the last two months, I have served on a jury trial at the United States District Court-house in Saint Paul. It was a worthwhile experience to be involved in such a lengthy and interesting legal process. Without rehashing all of the trial details, it is safe to say that I have been focusing lately on concepts such as fairness, equality, and justice. During this process, I found that I filter these ideas through my faith and my understanding of God’s will and way.

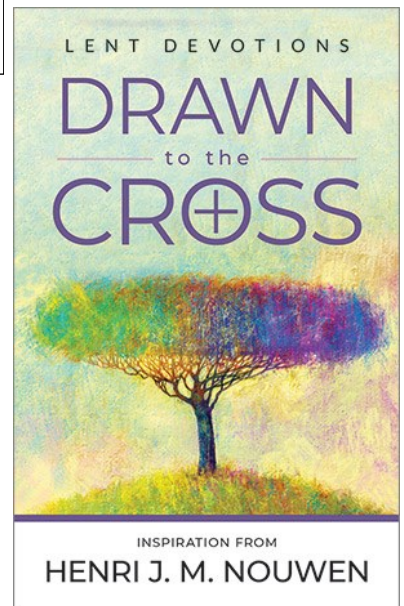
As I have reflected on these legal standards, I have realized that they are all an expression of love. The more that we allow our lives to be filled with the love that God gives us, the more we will live equitable and just lives. So when Paul is speaking to the Corinthian church about love, he is doing so with the

mindset of justice and righteousness for all.

1st Corinthians 13:7 says, “love always protects, it always trusts, it always helps, it always perseveres.” As we live out these traits more and more, we will be creating a world of justice for all. Think of our world, our community, our church, and how it will be transformed if we focused on protecting the vulnerable, trusting our neighbors, hoping for the blessings of others, and persevering through the obstacles that we all can face. This is what our Lord asks and requires of each of us.

It is love that creates peace in our world. Love will protect us from the evil that exists in our world. Love lets us trust in the grace and mercy of our God. Love brings hope that overcomes despair and darkness. Love allows us to persevere against the hardships that we all face. It is this type of love that our world needs more of, a Christ-centered, justice-forming, and equality-creating love.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Mike



Lenten Devotionals

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Lent	2
Children’s Ministry News	3
Youth Ministries	4
MN Adult & Teen Challenge , Strive, & Alive!	5
Directory Updates, Food Pantry, Salvation Army Cereal	6
Music News	7
Birthdays, Deaths, Births, & Baptisms	8
PWC News/Penny Jar/Prayer Shawl	9-10
Summer Pictorial Information	11
Session & Deacon News	12
Real Hope for the Hungry, Variety Talent Show	13
Ladies Lunches, Serving Our Country; New Members Class	14
Office News	15
March/April Calendars	



**Season of Lent: “Seven Words;
Listening to Christ from the Cross”**

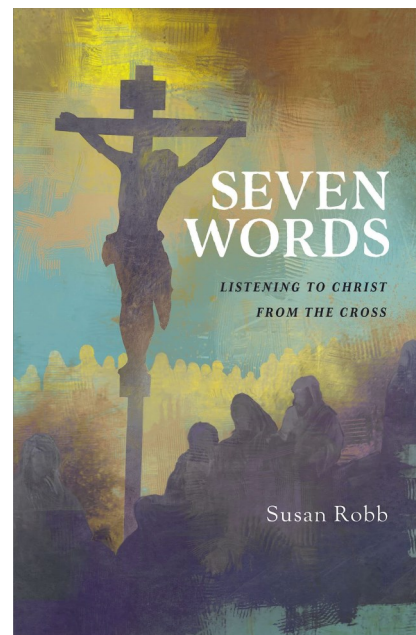
Wednesday Evening Lenten Vespers Services

March

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.” (Luke 23:33)

Lent is a season in which through preparation and study, we approach the Cross of Christ to learn of his salvation and his redemption. While the reality of the cross is not something that we often like to discuss, it is from the cross that Jesus’s full humanity draws us closest to him. It is from the cross that Jesus ‘breathes his last breath and speaks his last words. This year our Lenten focus will be on the seven last words that Christ utters on the cross. Through our Wednesday Night Vesper Services we will listen to the final words of our Savior and learn what he wants us to hear the most. We will be watching together and learning from Susan Robb’s new DVD series, ‘Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross.’ 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, *Drawn to the Cross*, from the words of Henri Nouwen.



We will also be offering our traditional Wednesday Night Lenten Meals which will begin at 5:30pm starting on March 1st. *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 1	Deacons’ Supper – Chicken & Rice Casserole, veggies, & dessert		
March 8	Worship & Outreach & Personnel & Finance Supper- Picnic in March		
March 15	Nurture & Discipleship/Youth Supper – Taco Salad and dessert bars		
March 22	Facility & Grounds Supper – Baked Potato Bar and all the fixins’		
March 29	Mission & Fellowship Supper - Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Caesar Salad & Potluck Desserts		



\$5.00 – Adults

\$4.00 – Children

\$15.00 – Family





Adventurer's Club Spring Fun!

For 2nd—5th Grades
Sunday, March 12th
2:00 - 3:30 pm
Tea Party & Movie



Sunday, April 16th
2:00 - 3:30 pm

Show and Tell (Bring along
a hobby to share or a game
to play)



Remember to invite a friend to join us!

On Wednesday evenings during Lent, children age 3 years old - 5th grade will start the service in the Sanctuary and be dismissed for music time or teaching time.

Wednesdays March 1 & 8 - with Miss Emma
Wednesdays, March 15, 22, & 29 -

with Miss Laura

Fish banks will once again be distributed. All money collected goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program, Hunger Program, and Self-Development Program. Fish banks may be returned on Palm Sunday.



EGGs-traordinary

Easter

Adventure



Laura Carlson is looking for Egg-cellent helpers of all ages to share smiles and the Good News at this wonderful community outreach event. There will be signup sheets in the Fellowship Hall, or you can contact her directly. We will also be collecting donations of individually wrapped candy and plastic Easter eggs.

Join us from 9:00 - 10:30 am on

Saturday, April 8th for our

EGGs-traordinary Easter

Adventure.

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

Invite your neighbors and your friends!

Save the Dates for VBS - June 12th - 16th 9 am - 1 pm



L.I.F.T. Youth Ministries

Lenten Taco Supper

Our Lenten Taco Supper is coming up on March 15th. We ask that you be here at 4:45 to set up and 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. 1—Lenten Vespers (5:30-7:00)
- Mar. 8—Lenten Vespers (5:30-7:00)
- Mar. 15—Lenten Vespers (Youth Taco Supper)
- Mar. 22—Lenten Vespers (5:30-7:00)
- Mar. 29—Lenten Vespers (5:30-7:00)
- Apr. 5—NO LIFT (Holy Week)
- Apr. 12—LIFT (6:00-7:30)
- Apr. 19—LIFT (6:00-7:30)
- Apr. 26—LIFT (6:00-7:30)
- May 3—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

Confirmation Class

- 3/5—Confirmation
- 3/12—Confirmation
- 3/19—No Confirmation (MN Teen Challenge Brunch)
- 3/26—Confirmation
- 4/2—No Confirmation
- 4/9—No Confirmation
- 4/16—Confirmation
- 4/23—Confirmation
- 4/30—Confirmation



Are you interested in getting some volunteer hours? Talk to Pastor Britt or Laura Carlson about helping out at our EGG-straordinary Easter Adventure!!

Don't forget to register for the **Mission Trip to Milwaukee, WI, on July 16th-22nd.** 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 wonderful trip.





Adult & Teen Challenge
Minnesota

Freedom from addiction starts [here](#).

Special Worship on March 19th!!

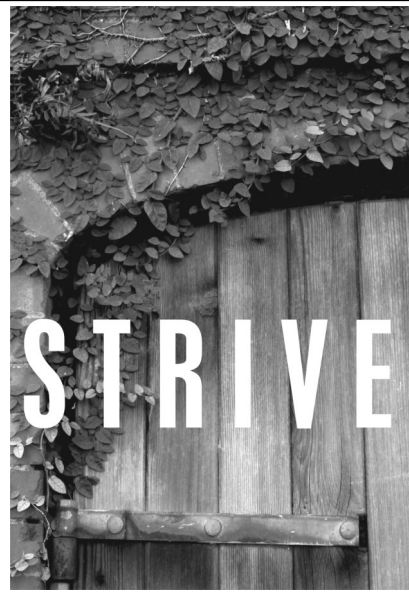
Join us for a special Sunday Morning Worship experience on Sunday, March 19th at 9:30am. Our Youth Praise Team, **Ascending Truth**, will be leading our service, and the message will be given by the wonderful folks from **MN Adult & Teen Challenge**.

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 will 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. Please sign up for bringing an Egg Bake. Join us for a Sunday of Great Music, Inspiring Testimonies, and Delicious Food!!

Strive Couples Bible Study – Monday Nights in March and April @ 7pm

Everyone in the late 20s through early 50s is invited to join us for the study – *Relat(able)* by Louie Giglio. This will be a six-week study that will meet weekly on Monday Nights beginning March 13th as we look at all of our relationships the way God intended them to be. Beginning with how we see ourselves, we develop a view of God and others that impacts the way we relate to our parents, our children, and our siblings and how we can successfully navigate friendships, dating relationships and marriage. We will learn together how God can give us a greater purpose in dating and marriage, bring us peace in the midst of relational conflict, and help us restore relationships that seem broken beyond repair. The Relat(able) Study is video based, but we will have plenty of time to reflect, discuss and interact on the material. Keep an eye out for where we will meet!



Alive! Fellowship for our 55+ age group, will have a get-together in May! Watch the bulletin & May/June Witness for details.



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

SALVATION ARMY CEREAL CART

Westminster is off to a good start! Thanks everyone for being so generous and keeping our commitment to furnish cereal for the Salvation Army cereal shelf. Please continue filling the cereal cart as the winter months can be very hard. The Austin community needs our help more than ever.

January 2023 - 58 pounds
Thank you, the Mission & Fellowship Committee



WPC FOOD PANTRY

Please continue to bring in **food products** to the church office that will keep outside in the below -freezing weather for our neighbors in need. **Cash donations** work as well to supplement the grocery money spent to continue to fill our Pantry twice weekly.



Thank you,
The Mission & Fellowship Committee

Church Directory UPDATE

D'Anna Hastings: email is:

Dannahastings17@gmail.com

Address: 14065 185 St, Elma, Iowa 50628

Phone: 641-228-0987

Cyrene Berthiaume: new cell number

507-219-8420

Nanc & Mark Lenz: cell phone number is:

507-438-9771

Do not use landline

Vollie Stiebler: new cell number

507-226-5863

No more landline

Deloris Ross: new cell number

507-606-2025

No more landline

Gary & Meridee Ofstedahl: cell numbers

Gary - 507-440-0750

Meridee - 507-279-0851

No more landline

Ted & Shirley Hinrichs: cell phone numbers are:

Shirley - 507-438-1926

Ted - 507-438-1925

No more landline





Music News



Chancel Choir

March 5th and 12th will feature the Chancel Choir singing for the 9:30 Lenten Services. In April, the group will be singing for the Maundy Thursday

Service on April 6 and will be joined by a great brass ensemble on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

We always have openings for new singers, so feel free to join us on the Wednesday before each service for a rehearsal at 7:20. If you have questions, please contact Sue Radloff.

Sue Radloff - Director



Spirit Ringers

will rehearse on Thursday, Mar. 2 and Mar. 9 at 6:15; Wednesday, Mar 15 & 22 at 7:15; Thursday, Mar. 30 at 6:15. All April rehearsals will be on Wednesday at 6:15.

Spirit Ringers is open to anyone who can read music and is willing to attend regular rehearsals. If interested, please contact Ann Flisrand at 507-438-4079.

Ann Flisrand - Director



Rainbow Ringers

Rainbow Ringers

will rehearse every Wednesday in March at 4:45. They will not meet on April 5 because of spring

break. Rehearsals will resume on April 12 and meet every Wednesday. Plan to play for church on May 14 (Mother's Day).

(Rainbow Ringers is a bell ringing choir for children)

Ann Flisrand - Director



Sunshine Singers will be performing during the Lenten Vespers on March 15 as well as on April 16 in the

Sunday Worship Service. New music has arrived, and we are excited to learn it! We are also welcoming new singers, so if you know any kids ages 3 years old-5th grade who love to sing, dance and have fun, we'd love to see them on Sundays during the worship services and Wednesdays from 5:30-6pm.

Emma Evans-Peck - 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
ann44flis@charter.net



- 1 Ulang Diang
- 1 Robert Schwab
- 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
- 20 Emily Toland
- 21 Nora Nelson
- 26 Carmen Tribbett
- 30 Chloe Julios
- 30 Keegan Olsen

- 1 Ashley Gabbert
- 1 Sarah Hecimovich
- 1 Jodi Vortherms
- 2 Joyce Hovey
- 3 Garrett Larson
- 3 Gary Weaver
- 4 Jim Huisken
- 4 Eric Potter
- 4 Marlys Thiede
- 6 Emily Grace Toland
- 8 Elijah Kaercher
- 10 Riley Szyszkowski
- 11 Carolyn Meier
- 15 Alta Gaines
- 16 Mary Boyenga
- 16 Joan Schwab
- 18 Isaac Clasen
- 19 Faith Sayles
- 22 Samantha Langer
- 23 Nik Gasner
- 23 Shannon McFarland
- 23 Bill Orcutt
- 25 Burton Magnuson
- 28 Lydia Baron
- 29 Jake Hiegel
- 30 Lenette Baron
- 31 Chanda Sayles

Judy Reul
November 29, 2022

James Michael Sydenstricker
January 3, 2023

Bennett Michael Gabbert

Born at 8:23am on January 30, 2023
Parents: Michael & Ashley Gabbert
 7 pounds 7 ounces & 20.5" long

Proud Grandparents:
 Jane & Randy Arhart

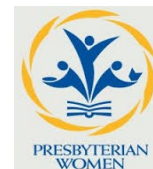
Harrison Nordean
 October 23, 2022

Kayden Levai
 November 13, 2022

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



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



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

"For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Symbolic Supper

We are looking forward to bringing the Symbolic Supper back for another year on Wednesday, April 5th at 12:00 Noon. The event will begin with guests assembling in the Parlor for a brief welcome. We will then quietly proceed to pick up our meals and reverentially enter the Fellowship Hall, in which the lights have been dimmed. This is an event where we can reflectively pause and soberly honor the events leading up to the miracle of our Risen Lord.

A quiet service will be presented consisting of communion, special music, and readings ranging from Passover Week to Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem to the Day of Resurrection. Guests are encouraged to maintain the quiet atmosphere in order to personally reflect on Easter blessings. All members - women, men, and youth - are invited. As well, we are extending invitations to neighboring congregations and expect a good turnout.

Signup will be available in Fellowship Hall, ending approximately March 26th.

Small Group Bible Study for Women

These small group studies are open to EVERY woman in the Congregation. You may participate in one or both.

Pot Pourri Evening Bible Study - 5:30pm in the Church Parlor on March 28 and April 25. Light supper of taco or pepperoni pizza. The video study is "Women of the Bible," a series of one actor biblical profiles performed by Anita Gutschick. Everyone welcome! RSVP to Gloria Aanonson 507-438-7393

Rebekah Daytime Bible Study - 9:30am in the Church Parlor on March 22 and April 26. Jacky

Dietz will lead us through *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers. Everyone is welcome for this time of study and fellowship. Contact – Selene Schulz @ 507-438-3299

The Circle of Compassion Committee has resumed services to bereaved families by coordinating lunches at Celebration of Life and Memorial Services. Contact Meridee Ofstedahl (507-279-0851) with your willingness to assist.

Check the Witness Newsletter, Sunday Bulletin, and Bulletin Board announcements of other programs open to all women of the congregation. This year, we look forward to Summer Sister and Secret Sister pairings, at least one special outing, and additional mission giving.

In mid October, we are hosting the Lakes and Prairies Synod PW Coordinating Team. These women from our synod region will meet to plan and work on a mission project.

Annual Rummage Sale

It's not too early to be thinking about this well-anticipated event as we declutter and spring clean! We will be accepting good usable items in good repair just prior to the event, so please set them aside.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." - Romans 12:20

With best wishes for a meaningful Lenten Season and a blessed Easter,

Betsy Wuebker

PWC Moderator

Your 2023 PWC Coordinating Team

Betsy Wuebker, Moderator

Gloria Aanonson, Co-Moderator

Nanc Lenz, Secretary

Selene Schulz, Treasurer

Members: Cyrene Berthiaume, Jacky Dietz, Helen Hecimovich, Shirley Hinrichs, Millie Masse, Peggy Queensland



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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



THE PENNY JAR –located in Fellowship Hall

Help locally - Help our students
 Have any loose change rattling around in your purse or pocket? Put them to good use by dropping them in the Penny Jar. This coming fall, the jar will be emptied and whatever the total dollar amount, PWC will match. The total will be given to **Austin Public Schools' Lunch Tray Program.**

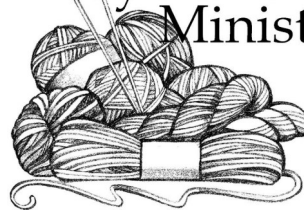
Austin Public Schools have recognized there is a segment of the parent population who don't qualify for any help and just misses the eligibility for free and reduced lunches. These are the kids who are lost in the shuffle; they're the children whose families are working hard but just don't make enough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

Please be a Lunch Guardian Angel.

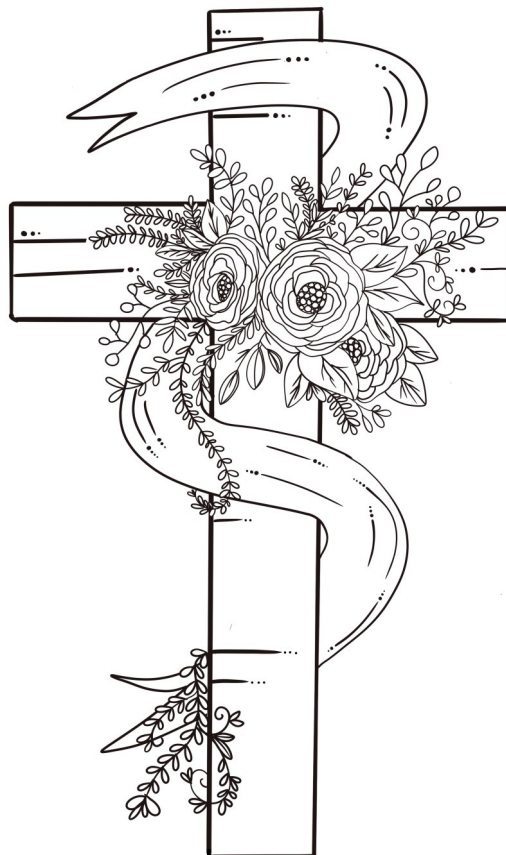


Lunch Angel

Prayer Shawl Ministry



We meet in-person on Thursday mornings, 9:30 a.m. in the Youth Room. 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!






Summer

Pictorial Directory Planned

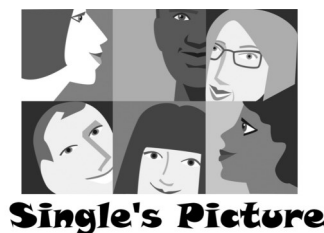
Every 5 years, we try and do a **New Pictorial Directory** which is being planned for

June 22nd (Thursday 2pm-8:30pm)

23rd (Friday 2pm-8:30pm), & 24th (Saturday 10am-2pm), 2023

We have invited Universal Church Directory to do a new directory for us. We will have signups starting for the time slots for the dates above soon. Please plan on participating! More information will be coming in the next Witness.

Universal Church Directories proposes to provide you with a beautiful full-color directory, each family photographed will receive both a complimentary 8x10 portrait of their directory pose and a directory.





Session News

Deacon News

Session News and Happenings from January and February

Your Session met on January 17th and on February 5th for our regularly called Session Meetings. Opening prayers and devotions were given by Rev. Olmsted. We held a New Officer's Training on January 15th and our Hybrid Officer's Retreat on February 5th. Our New Officers were elected to our Session and Deacon Boards at our Congregational Meeting on January 29th. Much of our work in January was spent on finalizing our 2023 Budget and closing out our 2022 ministries and calendars.

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

Items Approved in our Clerk's Report:

Deaths: James Michael Sydenstricker (01/03/23); The Lord's Supper was served in Worship on January 8th, February 5th.

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

Personnel/Finance conducted Annual Reviews for Pastors and Staff. We established a Faith Forward Fund Task Force to begin considering and possibly using some of the Hocker Funds. Currently are taking sign-ups for weekly ushers. *Approved staff raises and recommendations for Pastoral Terms of Call.*

Facilities/Grounds continued its work on getting bids and drawings for the New Garage. Began looking at purchasing a Floor Scrubber for the tiled flooring surfaces in our building. Worship/Outreach is scheduling the Special Music for our Lenten Worship.

Mission/Fellowship did not meet in January as all of the disbursements had been done. They also helped serve Cake on multiple Sundays. They are taking Egg Bake Sign-ups for MNATC Sunday on March 19th.

Nurture/Discipleship is currently working on our Easter Eggstraordinary Adventure on April 8th and have decided on dates for our 2023 VBS that we are leading ourselves (6/12-6/16). They are planning for our High School Mission Trip (7/16-7/22 – Next Step Ministries in Milwaukee). *The Youth Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast was approved for Feb. 26th.*

The January Treasurer's Report from Church Co-Treasurers, Bill Momsen and Eric Potter, and the 2023 Budget were approved. Gloria Aanonson was elected as our Clerk of Session and Bill Momsen and Eric Potter were elected as our Co-Treasurers. Jason Baron was approved as our Church President for 2023. Ann Sundal and Brenna Gerhart were approved again as our Presbytery Commissioners. Our 2023 Presbytery Giving was approved. Our 2022 Statistical Report was approved. The 2023 Communion Schedule was approved.

Our meetings were closed with prayer by Rev. Wundermachen and the Doxology was sung.

January Meeting

We opened our meeting with reading from *You Are the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen.

We continued our meeting by reviewing our care list and hospitalization sheet. We discussed each of the people on our list, when they were reached out to, what other needs they might have, and to see if there was anybody we needed to follow up with.

We continued as we looked into our committee business, Meridee Ofstedahl is finding greeters for March and April.

Our Communion Preparation and Westminster Witness Committee continue to plan and organize and set up for their respective ministries. We're so thankful that with their help, Communion and the Witness are always assembled and ready for us to receive.

This was the last meeting for some of our Deacons as they have completed their terms. We are thankful for their service.

February Meeting

This month brought us a new batch of incoming Deacons. We are excited to welcome Greg Gerber, Rollie Hanson, Sara Sayles, and Ann Sundal. Our Deacon Chairperson for this year is Louise Berhow.

Before our meeting, we all attended an officer retreat alongside the members of Session. We talked about this year's theme of *Loaves and Fishes* and heard from Pastor Mike about "Giving Faithfully" and from Pastor Britt about "Living Abundantly." We had a very successful meeting, and we look forward to the joys this year will bring. We assigned almost every deacon with a member from our homebound list to make sure that they are all cared for.

As we moved on to our committee business, we reviewed responsibilities for each of the committees. We have a deacon already assigned for finding greeters for March and April. We brought 7 meals to people last month. Communion continues to be set up and ready for us to celebrate on the first Sunday of the month, thanks to Carol Young, and this month, from Louise Berhow.

We also discussed and worked on planning the Deacon meal for the Lenten suppers. We will be making our Chicken and Rice Casserole with Green Beans.

Finally, we had some discussion on more items the Deacons could provide to those who are sick, those dealing with grief, or other major life events.

Thanks also to Tammy Coffey who helps assemble a group to put together the Witness.



I was hungry and you
gave me food,
I was thirsty and you
gave me something to drink.

Matthew 25:35, NRSV



Real Hope for the Hungry

Carol Brown from Real Hope for the Hungry is doing an outside food packing event using our Fellowship Hall on April 12th at 5:30pm. Any help would be appreciated! Please let our office know if you and/or your family can help setup, pack, or cleanup.

Thank you!



Standup Comedy!



Variety Talent Show Fundraiser at Westminster on Saturday, March 25th at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, March 25, 2023, at
2pm**

Free will offering admission
Refreshments at intermission

Featuring talent from Adams, Austin, Dexter, and Grand Meadow

Vocalists, instrumental music,
comedy, skits, Forte Milers,
Gary Froiland,
Second Edition, and Ann
Flisrand

**All proceeds go the Austin
Packer Pantry!**



LADIES OF WESTMINSTER

You are invited to our monthly Ladies Lunch celebrating our birthdays. You can bring a friend too! **March 8th, we will be meeting at El Mariachi at Noon** to celebrate those of us with birthdays in March. The dates for the **April lunch will be on April 12th at Noon** with place to be determined. 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!

New Members Class: March 5th, and 12th

"In Jesus Christ, God calls people to faith and to membership in the Church, the body of Christ... A congregation shall welcome all persons who trust in God's grace in Jesus Christ and desire to become part of the fellowship and ministry of his Church." As this excerpt from our Book of Order communicates, Church Membership is an important part of our ministry here at Westminster. It is the main way in which we connect with the Body of Christ. Through membership, we can improve and commit more fully to the fellowship, the worship, and the life of a local group of believers.

On Sunday, March 5th and 12th, we are beginning a New Members Class for anyone interested in joining our church. If you are interested in learning more about who we are and what we do as Presbyterians, then come and join us. The class will be in the Church Parlor from 11:00am – 11:45am, and all are welcome!



It's that time again to put our clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 11th. Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 12th!

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

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

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**



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



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 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 2023 is \$37.50 per member.**

Staff Email Addresses

Rev. Michael Olmsted
molmsted@westminsteraustin.com

Rev. Brittany Wundermachen
b.wundermachen@westminsteraustin.com

Director of Children's Ministries - Laura Carlson
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

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.



WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUEST

March/April 2023

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 \$20.00.

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 9th .

ORDER DEADLINE IS March 26th