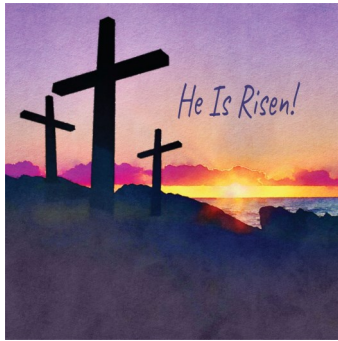


WESTMINSTER WITNESS

MARCH/APRIL 2024

"GROWING IN FAITH, REACHING OUT IN LOVE"

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE



*"The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful."
(Matthew 13:22)*

Fertile Ground: The Thorny Patch

As we return to the Parable of the Sower, we now are confronted with a third type of soil. We have seen the hardened soil in which the seed, or God's Word, could not even germinate. We see the rocky soil which allowed the seed to grow but would not allow any roots to be formed, and now, we have reached the third soil – a patch of thorny ground. Here the seed sprouts and shows some growth, but then is choked away before it could bear any fruit.

With this soil, we see a glimpse of hope, maybe, just maybe a branch or a vine will break through and be fruitful, but no such growth occurs. So, the question is - Why not? What is preventing the seeds of God's Word from growing in all these soils? We have reflected already on the hardened path and the rocky road, but why not in the thorny patch? Surely some branches would eventually break through, right?! Well, Jesus tells us that when we allow the thorns of the worries of this world pull us down and we let the deceitfulness of wealth pull us away, the Word will not produce fruit in our lives.

It is noteworthy that these two 'thorny' elements relate to the peace that we desire and the prosperity that we covet. There was a time in my life

in which these thorns began to choke away my faith and my focus on my God. It was early on in our lives as a family. I was bouncing between jobs trying to find my calling (as long as it provided a sustainable wage), and Coleen was starting her teaching career. Like most young families, we were managing to make it work, but there wasn't much wiggle room. But rather than focus on the blessings that God was providing, I was consumed with the worries of life and was buying into the lies of the world that an increased bank account could solve all my problems. These thorns were choking the peace, the joy, the hope of God's Word out of me.

Finally, I listened to God as he told me it would all be okay. He began to replace the anxiety with a sense of contentment. He made me aware of the lies that I was chasing, and he gave me his wealth. The budgets were still tight, the struggles were still real, but through his Word, he revealed to me what true peace and true wealth really are. By living in his Word, I can possess an eternal peace that surpasses all understanding and is guarded by Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:9). By believing in his Blessing, I realized that I am rich because of the poverty Jesus Christ took on at the Cross for me (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Each of these three soils brings with it an enemy that eventually attacks and kills these seeds that are sown. The first two, however, attack from the outside. The seeds on the hardened path are snatched away by the devil before they could begin to grow. The seeds on the rocky road begin to grow without roots, but then the trouble and persecution from the world caused them to fall away. But in this third soil, the attack comes from within us. It is when we allow our own worries and our desires to choke out the truth of our God, then we will wither and die. Friends, let's listen not to the manipulative words of the world that tells us that we are not good enough.

Let us not compare ourselves to what our neighbors have and we do not. In Jesus Christ, we are worthy of who he has created us to be. In Jesus Christ, we have his abundant wealth in which our cup truly does overflow. Let us receive the blessing of his word so that we can grow and flourish and be fruitful! Amen!

*God Bless;
Pastor Mike*

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

Wednesday Evening Lenten Vespers Services Continue

March

A Series of Services for the Season of Lent

(Luke 23:33)

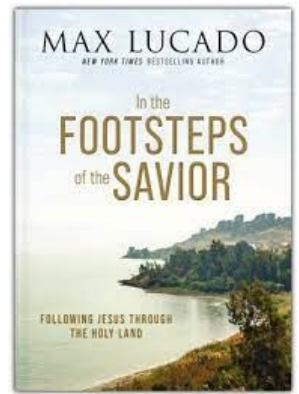
During this Season of Lent, you are invited to journey with Jesus through Capernaum, Galilee, Caesarea, and Jerusalem as we all learn about the places Jesus walked, talked and proclaimed that he is our Savior.

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

The LIFT Youth and our young children will be excused to their activities during the Worship.

We are continuing our traditional Wednesday Night Lenten Meals through March.

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 6th Deacons – Chicken & Rice

March 13th Men’s Fellowship – Baked Potato Bar

March 20th Youth – Taco Salad

\$5.00 – Adults

\$4.00 – Children

\$15.00 – Family



Adventurer's Club for Grades 2-5

Sunday, March 3, 2024 2:00 - 3:30pm

Pot O' Gold - St. Patrick's Day



Please RSVP to Laura Carlson at 433-3258 or christianed@westminsteraustin.com



It's time to begin collecting individually wrapped candy and plastic Easter eggs for our Eggs-traordinary Easter Adventure on March 30th. You may drop off donations beginning March 1st in the designated bin in the narthex or on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Laura Carlson is also looking for Egg-cellent helpers of all ages to share smiles and the Good News at this wonderful community outreach event. We are in need of Egg fillers (after Bible Study on March 26), greeters, game station workers, craft station workers, prize station workers, floaters, and set up and clean up crews. As you can see, we need lots of help! Please sign up on the sheets in the Fellowship Hall or contact her directly.

Come Celebrate Spring

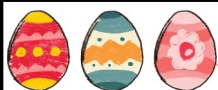
with **Faithful Families**

Sunday, April 7, 2024

2:00-3:30pm at the church



We will go on a Nature Scavenger Hunt, create pinecone birdseed feeders, and enjoy a surprise snack. RSVP to Pastor Britt or Laura Carlson



EGGS-traordinary Easter Adventure



Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 9:00AM

We'll have:

The Easter Story, Carnival Games, Crafts, Snacks, Face Painting, An Egg Hunt, A Raffle, A Photo Booth, and Entertainment with Jim Jayes!

The Event concludes at 10:30AM

Spread the Word! Invite your neighbors and friends!



SAVE THE DATES: Vacation Bible School will be held June 10-14, 2024. Our theme is SCUBA.....Diving into friendship with God. Many volunteers are needed to make our VBS a success (teachers, crew leaders, cooks, greeters, etc.) Come join in the fun and share our love of Jesus – the Living Water!



LIFT Youth Ministries

Lenten Taco Supper

Our Lenten Taco Supper is coming up on March 20th. We ask that you be here at 4:45pm 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. 6—Lenten Vespers (5:30-7:00)
- Mar. 13—Lenten Vespers (5:30-7:00)
- Mar. 20—Lenten Vespers (Youth Taco Supper)
- Mar. 27—Holy Week (not meeting)
- Apr. 3—LIFT—Game Night ** Bring your favorite games and snack! (6:00-7:30)
- Apr. 10—LIFT (6:00-7:30)
- Apr. 17—LIFT (6:00-7:30)
- Apr. 24—LIFT (6:00-7:30)
- May 1—LIFT (6:00-7:30)

To all 8th graders, here is a reminder about our confirmation dates:

- Sunday, March 10th at 2pm
- Sunday, March 24th at 2pm
- Sunday, April 14th at 2pm
- Sunday, April 28th at 2pm



LIFT Games & Snacks

Join us for a fun evening of playing games and having snacks on April 3rd (6:00-7:30). Bring your favorite game and snack to share! Invite a friend!



Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested in getting some volunteer hours? Talk to Pastor Britt or Laura Carlson about helping out at our EGGs-traordianry Easter Adventure!! **Saturday, March 30th**



We also need volunteers to help with VBS. You can help one day or all 5! We look forward to your help **June 10th—14th.**

Don't forget to register for the Mission Trip to Colorado Springs, CO from June 22nd-30th

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 17th!!

Join us for a special Sunday Morning Worship experience on Sunday, March 17th 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, serving, and cleaning up. Join us for a Sunday of Great Music, Inspiring Testimonies, and Delicious Food!!

Strive Ministries (Young Singles, Couples, and Families late 20s to early 50s)

Join us this Spring as we continue to connect around a wonderful meal, our study "A Meal With Jesus", and great fellowship. We will be meeting at people's homes at 6:00pm on Monday, March 25th and Monday, April 22nd. (More details will come soon.) So join us as we gather together around a shared meal and God's Word to eat with Jesus! Talk to Pastor Mike or Lenette Baron for more information.



Alive! Fellowship for our 50+ age group will have a get-together on

April 13th from 2 - 4pm for a

Bunco & Finger Foods Party!!

Where: Pat & Steve Rodewald's Condo Association

Community Room at Oak Park Village

1902 Burr Oak Drive, Austin

(Finger Foods are described as "things you can pick up with your fingers and do not require a fork.")





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 2024 - 72 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

New Address:

Selene & Lonny Schulz (after 3/15/24)
1507 28th St SW
Austin, MN 55912

Sarah & Cory Wermager-Hernandez (after 3/15/24)
1406 22nd Ave SW
Austin, MN 55912-1770

Vera Duholm
328 Tischler Ave SE
Faribault, MN 55021-6457

Sandy Nelson
PO Box 323
Saint Ansgar, IA 50472-0323

Lamonte & Julie Gray
W3779 Highland Dr
La Crosse, WI 54601

Eira Nelson
714 South Bend Road, Room 212
Mankato, MN 56001

No More Landline:
Cyrene Berthiaume - 507-219-8420 (cell)
Jack Berthiaume - 507-402-8658 (cell)

New Email:
Jack Berthiaume - jackberthiaume1945@gmail.com

WPC Food Pantry Needs

- Butter/Margarine**
- Frozen Meats**
- Frozen Poultry**
- Frozen potatoes**



Music News



Chancel Choir

March's schedule for musical groups will be a bit different. The Chancel Choir will be singing for Communion Sunday, March 3, but the Westminster Strings will be doing the music on March 10. This is because Easter falls on the fifth Sunday of the month, so the choir and strings are trading Sundays. The Chancel Choir will also be singing for the Maundy Thursday Service, March 28 as well as for Easter, March 31. They will be joined by a brass group on that special day. Such an exciting time!

April will see the return of the normal schedule with the choir on the first two Sundays, April 7 & 14, Ascending Truth on the 21, and Spirit Ringers on the 28. We rehearse the Wednesday before each time we sing at 7:20 and are always looking for new singers to join us!

Sue Radloff, Director



Spirit Ringers

Spirit Ringers will rehearse on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:15. On March 13, 20, & 27, we will rehearse immediately following the Lenten Service. We will play for the Sunday Service on March 24 and April 28.

Ann Flisrand, Director



Sunshine Singers will be performing during the March 6th Lenten Service and will be meeting to learn the music during the Lenten Vespers Services on February 21st and 28th (6:20pm) as well as learning the music during the worship services on February 18th, 25th, and March 3rd (10am). Contact Ms. Emma if you'd like extra time with the music.

I hope to see you all there!

Stay tuned for more spring programming with Children's Music Ministry!

Miss Emma



Rainbow Ringers:

Rainbow Ringers will rehearse every Wednesday at 4:45-5:30.

Ann Flisrand, Director

Music Directors:

Sue Radloff - Chancel Choir
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 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
- 31 Chanda Sayles

- 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
- 25 Burton Magnuson
- 28 Lydia Baron
- 29 Jake Hiegel
- 30 Lenette Baron

Jeannie Hanson
February 6, 2024

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

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

Bryce Gerber - Marines

Christine Gaskel - National Guard

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

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

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

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, March 27 at 12:00 Noon. Guests will assemble in the Parlor for a brief welcome and then quietly proceed to pick up their meals. Plan to reverentially enter Fellowship Hall, where 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 a quiet atmosphere in order to personally reflect on the Easter blessings.

All members - women, men, and youth - are invited. We are also extending invitations to neighboring congregations and expect a good turnout.

Sign-ups will be available in the Fellowship Hall and will end approximately March 17.

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 the 4th MONDAY of every month (new day!) March 25 and April 22. Light supper of taco or pepperoni pizza. We are currently being led in a study of The Awe of God, by John Bevere. Everyone is welcome! RSVP to Gloria Aanonson 507-438-7393.

Rebekah Daytime Bible Study - 9:30am in the Church Parlor on March 27 and April 24. Jacky Dietz is leading 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 Nanc Lenz (507-438-9771) 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.

On April 20, we will host a **Presbyterian Women of the Twin Cities Area Gathering** beginning at 10am for sign-in and coffee. Speaker Louella Voigt will present and lead discussion on her recent trip to the southern border. We will provide a light lunch to follow. Cost to attend is \$15. Contact Gloria Aanonson (507) 438-7393 for more information.

"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 2024 PWC Coordinating Team

Betsy Wuebker, Moderator
Gloria Aanonson, Co-Moderator
Nanc Lenz, Secretary
Selene Schulz, Treasurer
Jacky Dietz, Helen Hecimovich, Shirley Hinrichs,
Millie Masse, Peggy Queensland





75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending, and growing to create a world where all needs are met. 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.



LADIES OF WESTMINSTER

You are invited to our monthly Ladies Lunch celebrating our birthdays. You can bring a friend too! **March 13th, we will be meeting at Bella Victoria at Noon** to celebrate those of us with birthdays in March. The date for the **April lunch will be on April 10th at Noon** and also at Bella Victoria. Watch the bulletins for more info! Please text or call Selene Schulz at 507-438-3299 if you would like to attend so reservations can be made.

Please come! Bring a friend!



It's that time again to put our clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 9th. Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 10th!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Every Thursday at 9:30, Youth Room.



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

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



*Save your change for
the Money Jar!*

THE PENNY JAR –

located in
Fellowship Hall

**COINS FOR WPC
FOOD PANTRY**

There is a real need in our community to provide food for those who go without. Please drop whatever loose change you can spare into the Penny Jar located in the Fellowship Hall. Every penny counts and makes a difference. As has been our practice in the past, **PWC** will match the coins collected and give it to the **WPC Food Pantry**.

Thanks for your continued support.



Did you know you can give via text or online?

Give easily and securely from anywhere, anytime.

Via Text Message

Text givewpc to 73256

On our website

www.westminsteraustin.com



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

SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING POLICY

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

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

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

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

8:30am-4pm

Friday

8:30am - 12:30pm

Church Phone

507-433-3258



PER CAPITA

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

Staff Email Addresses

Rev. Michael Olmsted
molmsted@westminsteraustin.com

Rev. Brittany Wundermachen
b.wundermachen@westminsteraustin.com

Office Administrator-Cindy Jayes
secretary1@westminsteraustin.com

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

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

Westminster Website

www.westminsteraustin.com

www.facebook.com/westminsteraustinn



CHURCH WEBSITE

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

website. Click the **Give Now** button and follow the prompts for online giving.

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

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





Session News

Deacon News

Session News and Happenings from January and February

Your Session met on January 15th and on February 20th for our regularly called Session Meetings. Opening prayers and devotions were given by Rev. Olmsted. We held a New Officer's Training on January 14th and our Officer's Retreat on February 6th. Our New Officers were elected to our Session and Deacon Boards at our Congregational Meeting on January 28th.

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: Jeannie Hanson (02/06/24);

The Lord's Supper was served in Worship on Jan. 7th, Feb. 4th, and Feb. 14th (Ash Wed.)

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

Personnel/Finance conducted Annual Reviews for Pastors and Staff. Currently are taking sign-ups for weekly ushers. Implemented steps to make our Church Finances more understandable for Session and Congregation. *Approved 2024 Budget as well as staff raises and recommendations for Pastoral Terms of Call.*

Facilities/Grounds met jointly with W/O to discuss plans for increased accessibility in Sanctuary. *Approved plan for adding more Handicap Accessible Seating in Sanctuary.*

Worship/Outreach has scheduled the Special Music for our Lenten Worship. Discussing plans for our Outdoor Summer Worship Schedule

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 17th.

Nurture/Discipleship is currently working on our Easter Eggstraordinary Adventure on Mar. 30th and have decided on dates for our 2024 VBS that we are leading ourselves (6/10-6/14). They are planning for our High School Mission Trip (6/22-6/29 – Next Step Ministries in Colorado Springs). *The Youth Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast was approved for Feb. 25th.*

January and February Treasurer's Report from Church Co-Treasurers, Bill Momsen and Eric Potter were approved. Gloria Aanonson was elected as our Clerk of Session and Bill Momsen and Eric Potter were elected as our Co-Treasurers for 2024. Richard Carlson was approved as our Church President for 2024. Ann Sundal was approved again as our Presbytery Commissioners. Our 2024 Presbytery Giving was approved. Our 2023 Statistical Report was approved. The 2024 Communion Schedule was approved. 2024/2025 Community Bible Study facility usage was approved. Facility usage for Casa del Alfarero Church on Saturday and Sunday Nights was approved. Additional Offering requests for MNATC (3/17) and Gideon's Bible (4/14) were approved.

Our meetings were closed with prayer by Rev. Wunderma-chen and the Doxology was sung.

January Meeting

We opened our meeting with a Devotional from *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young.

We discussed our Care List and Hospitalization Sheet to make sure we reached out to those who had surgeries or procedures done and that we had reached out with a followup or meal offer.

In Committee discussions, we assigned Deacons to find greeters through February. Our Meal Ministry was able to bring 1 meal to people.

We closed our meeting in prayer.

February Meeting

We opened with a devotional from *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. We read about coming to God for rest and refreshment. We know that ministry is exciting because we get to be a part of God's ministry on earth, but it can also be tiring if we rely to much on ourselves. We must constantly find support and strength in our Lord as we look to doing ministry.

We welcomed our new group of Deacons to the meeting as they were voted on during the January congregational meeting. We are excited for our new deacons: Curt Lerum, Lanny Krachmer and Karen Krachmer, as well as Sarah Wehner who had fulfilled her initial 3-year term and then taken on another 3-year term. We are also very thankful to those Deacons who have transitioned off: Selene Schulz, Karen Johnson, Louise Berhow, and Shelly Buttshaw. They served our congregation well.

Following this, we had an overview of the role of a Deacon as well as the different committees to help get the new Deacons acquainted with their tasks. We discussed our Care List and Hospitalization Sheet to make sure we reached out to those who had surgeries or procedures done and that we had reached out with a followup or meal offer.

In Committee discussions, we assigned Deacons to find greeters through April. Our Meal Ministry was able to bring 8 meals to people. As some of our deacons have since transitioned off, we have reassigned new heads of committees. The new head of our Witness Committee is Greg Gerber.

Following our meeting, we joined together with the church Elders for an officer training in the chapel.

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 2024

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 24th