



The Voice of Westminster

We are a servant church, nurturing each other's spiritual journey and personal gifts. All are welcome!

July 2019

An Inviting Atmosphere

When was the last time you visited another church for the first time? For some it has been a long time. I consider myself fairly outgoing, but admittedly can still find visiting a totally new congregation intimidating. I am wondering if I will stand up when I am supposed to stand, sit when I am supposed to sit, know any of the songs and, of course, know where the restroom is, if necessary (at least at my age).

Certainly if we are visiting with a family member or a friend we have an advantage, because we can always ask them questions. I have over the course of the years visited many churches. Some were very inviting, with people coming up to welcome me, asking who I was, and even introducing me to a few others. Other churches I entered, I felt like I was visiting someone else's "family reunion." They all seemed friendly, at least to each other, but passed by me as if I was invisible.

Thomas Bandy in his book, "Kicking Habits: Welcome Relief For Addicted Congregations" notes that *"every dying church is a friendly church."* The people are friendly.....at least to each other. Oh, they may greet each other during the passing of the peace, but there is not much initiative to spend time visiting with newcomers later, listening about their lives, and introducing them to others. As the old saying goes: *"We do not have a second chance to make a first impression."*

I encourage you each week to look for those you don't know, and make it a priority to talk to them first. You can always call a friend later to catch up, but this may be the only opportunity to connect with a visitor or someone new.

Some are so afraid that they might mistake someone new that really has been there for years. Perhaps the safest way to introduce yourself is "Hi, I am _____; I am not sure if I have met you before." Maybe you both have been a part of the same church, but don't know each other. It is time to build a relationship. If you see someone sitting or standing by themselves, join them, strike up a conversation. Tell them you're glad to have met them, and introduce them to one other person.

We like to think of ourselves as a family. The real test is to see if newcomers are made to feel this way, or if they feel like they are "crashing" someone else's family reunion.

Blessings

Pastor Roger

Building Bridges With Water-Car Wash Water!

When was the last time you got something for nothing-absolutely no strings attached? That's what makes the idea of having a free car wash such a great bridge builder.

Pastor Roger says it is one of the best ways to build community, across generations, within a congregation and to build bridges to the community. Few things come without strings attached these days, so this is a tangible, fun way to serve those in our community and build a positive impression of Westminster.

Here's the key: we will not accept donations of any kind, and all signage will share this fact. To make this work, however, will take between 30-to-35 individuals to donate a Saturday morning. Fortunately, we will use the event to build up partnerships with Gospel Mission, the new church that will begin worshipping at Westminster on July 6, and Gospel Tabernacle (partner of Gospel Mission), and Narcotics Anonymous, which meets at Westminster three times week.

The free car wash is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 10. We'll have devotions, prayers and set-up at 9 and then wash cars from ten-to-noon. After that, we'll have celebration lunch for our volunteers. For those who come through the car wash line, we'll provide refreshments and a blessing card.

If you're thinking, "Why would I want to wash cars," there are other ways to help, too, including making refreshments for people who come through the car wash, handing out blessing cards and standing on the street inviting people to come.

Please let Pastor Roger know if you would be able to help. It's a great way to make a difference!



Session Notes

Westminster Session met Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Pastor Roger Grandia opened with prayer. Members then went around the room sharing a significant event or activity that has been key in their spiritual journeys. Session also approved the following:

- Upgrades to church security including both surveillance and video recording cameras, key-less and programmable entry and remote door release (rather than walking to the front door to open). This was a Long View project with features that were added. Total cost: \$18,145 plus a monthly maintenance fee of \$75.
- New icemaker in the FLC kitchen. The old one could no longer be repaired. Total cost: \$2,207.00 plus delivery and installation.
- Annual fundraiser for Ecumenical Community Center to be held Oct. 26 from 2-to-5 p.m. in the Family Life Center.
- Heard from and accepted Linda Woods as a new member.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 with the group holding hands and saying the Lord's Prayer, led by Pastor Roger.



A Blessing From First Lutheran

Hosting members of First Lutheran while their Sanctuary is being renovated, has had many unexpected pleasures. For some it has been seeing old friends. For others, a chance to make new ones.

For Loaves & Fishes, it means a July donation drive by First Lutheran. "This is a splendid idea and L&F would be delighted," said L&F Director, Jan Kosowski.

At Jan's suggestion, First Lutheran will be collecting Kleenex, shampoo, jelly, soup and crackers. Once items are gathered, interested First Lutheran members will tour L&F. First Lutheran has given several grocery carts of goods in the past, but this will be our first coordinated effort. Thank you First Lutheran!

Summer Neighborhood Meal Sign-up

It's hard to believe it's that time again. Time for Neighborhood Meals at St. Paul's, across the street. This summer, Westminster's week will be Aug. 12-16. Tom Read is organizing Westminster's sign-up as always. However, if you're comfortable with signing up online, that's the fastest and easiest way to do so. It also ensures that we don't have duplicate sign-ups. The website is :

<http://www.neighborhoodmeals.org/volunteer>

For those who are not comfortable using the Internet, we will have paper sign-up sheets available on Sundays. The ministry supports the neighborhood around Westminster. Although it originally served children to compensate for not getting a school lunch in the summer, the meals are now served to people of all ages.

We hope you'll join us, even if you haven't volunteered before. It's actually kind of fun-and you get to wear a hairnet. We didn't want to leave that out. If you are interested, please check out the website listed above or talk with Tom Read. He coordinates the Westminster volunteers for this great mission. Thank you Tom!



Past Neighborhood Meals when Westminster provided volunteers!



Please Welcome Westminster's Newest Member



New member, Linda Woods and her daughter, Barbara.

Westminster welcomed a new member on Sunday, June 23 during the 11 a.m. service in the Sanctuary. Linda Woods has actually been coming to Westminster for about two years. Linda met with the Session during the June 18 meeting. She said, "Christ had been a part of my life since I can remember."

Linda was born in West Virginia and remembers her grandfather taking her to the Methodist church where members alternated as preachers, including "Grandpa."

Later, when she and her husband met, they joined First Presbyterian in Davenport and raised their children in that church. They lived in Bettendorf for 30-plus years. Her husband passed away in 2016,. They were living in Pekin, IL at the time. Linda later moved to Cedar Rapids to be near her daughter, Barbara.

Linda has quite a passion for serving others. She currently volunteers in the RISE program, which helps former jail inmates ease back into society and stay on a positive path. She says she has a real heart for outreach, especially for the homeless and the elderly. In the category of "It's a small world," Linda knows Rev. Barb Furman, who heads up the Gospel Mission that starts worship at Westminster July 6.

Linda, thank you for choosing to become a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. We are blessed!

VBS Going, Going, Gone Fishing!

If you stopped by the office the week of June 17, you likely heard either the rumble of kids feet in the hallways or lively singing in the Chapel. It was all part of First Lutheran Vacation Bible School. With a theme like "Going Fishing" and being part of a small group called "rainbow trout" or "goldfish", kids were bound to have a good time. The school used nearly all of Westminster's Sunday School classrooms, the Chapel, Atrium and Large Parlor.

Most of the groups let out at 2 p.m., but before they did, there was always plenty of singing—loud and interactive.

Thank you First Lutheran for holding VBS here and for letting us peek in from time to time to see how things were going. It was fun!

The Month of July
Thank You Volunteers!

Offering Stewards

July 1—Warren Feerer & Tom Read
 July 8—Barb & Bill Moss
 July 15—Pat Teig & Mark Tyler
 July 22—Maggie York & Ann Buckheister
 July 29—Warren Feerer & Tom Read

9 a.m. Liturgists

July 7—Lemi Tilahun
 July 14—Stephanie Martinez
 July 21—Kate/Audrey Fashimpaur
 July 28—Ben Fashimpaur

11 a.m. Liturgists

July 7—Ann Buckheister
 July 14—Deb Liljedahl
 July 21—Signe Henderson
 July 28—Warren Feerer

11:00 a.m. Ushers/Greeters

July 7—Jean Kenison, Sharon Colton
 July 14—Flora Kitzman & Brian Read
 July 21—Dick Trotter & Joan Charters
 July 28—Claudia Warfel & Sharon Colton



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Vic Naxera	1
James Boardman	3
James Shanklin, Jr	7
Carly Warner	7
Bernie Tiede	9
Samantha Johnson	11
Sara Tyler	11
Dave Leeper	14
Bootie Davis	16
John Roof	16
Pam Richardson	17
Janet Shaff	17
Don McKee	19
Susie Moran	20
Dick Trotter	21
Dorothy Harlan	26
Bud Kudart	27
Lemi Tilahun	28
Jean Kenison	29
Don Damsteegt	31

Did the "Voice of Westminster" miss your birthday? Please let us know. Sometimes the database doesn't do its job right (it's never operator error). Please contact the office and we will make sure your birthdate is added to appropriate month.

And, happy birthday!



Westminster Calendar

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:30 am – Bridge Club-FLC 6 pm-Deacons Meeting	2 3 pm-L&F Pantry 6:30 pm-NA-Old Dining	3 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast	4 Independence Day Church Closed	5 Church Closed	6 5pm-1 st Lutheran 6:30pm-Gospel Mission 7:30pm-NA
7 Communion Sunday 9 am-FUEL Service-FLC 9 am-1 st Lutheran-Sanctuary 11 am-Traditional-Sanctuary 11:15 am-1 st Lutheran-FLC	8 10:30 am – Bridge Club-FLC	9 3 pm-L&F Pantry 6:30 pm-NA-Old Dining	10 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast 9:30 am-Prayer Shawl Ministry	11 9:15 am-Kindred Sisters 11am-Bridge Club 5:30-Personnel 6pm-1 st Lutheran rehearsal	12 Church Closed 7:30 pm-NA	13 5pm-1 st Lutheran 6:30pm-Gospel Mission 7:30pm-NA
14 Communion Sunday 9 am-FUEL Service-FLC 9 am-1 st Lutheran-Sanctuary 11 am-Traditional-Sanctuary 11:15 am-1 st Lutheran-FLC 6pm-Cedar Singers-FLC	15 10:30 am – Bridge Club-FLC 4:30 pm- Finance Committee	16 3 pm-L&F Pantry 6:30 pm-NA-Old Dining 6:30-Session Meeting <i>Note-Newsletter Deadline</i>	17 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast	18 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> 11am-Bridge Club 6pm-1 st Lutheran rehearsal	19 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> Church Closed 7:30 pm-NA	20 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> 5pm-1 st Lutheran 6:30pm-Gospel Mission 7:30pm-NA
21 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> Communion Sunday 9am-FUEL Service-FLC 9 am-1 st Lutheran-Sanctuary 11am-Traditional-Sanctuary 11:15 am-1 st Lutheran-FLC	22 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> 10:30 am – Bridge Club-FLC	23 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> 3 pm-L&F Pantry 6:30 pm-NA-Old Dining	24 <i>Roger on Vacation</i> 7:30 am-Men's Breakfast-Atrium 1pm-Prayer Shawl Ministry	25 9:15 am-Kindred Sisters 11 am-Bridge Club 6 pm-1 st Lutheran	26 Church Closed 7:30 pm-NA	27 5 pm-1 st Lutheran 6:30 pm-Gospel Mission 7:30 pm-NA
28 Communion Sunday 9 am-FUEL Service-FLC 9 am-1 st Lutheran-Sanctuary 11 am-Traditional-Sanctuary 11:15 am-1 st Lutheran-FLC 6pm-Cedar Singers-FLC	29 10:30 am – Bridge Club-FLC	30 3 pm-L&F Pantry 6:30 pm-NA-Old Dining	31			

Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
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Return Service Requested

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July 2019

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Times

9:00 a.m. FUEL service in the Family Life Center
11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary

Visit us on Facebook or at www.crwpc.org

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