

# THE REPORTER

## WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415  
www.wpcspi.org

December 2017

### WORSHIP & EDUCATION CALENDAR

#### Sunday Schedule

Nursery 8:30 a.m.

Worship 8:30 a.m. Parish Hall  
& 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Sunday School for Pre-K – Grade 5  
10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Adult Education Forum  
11:15 a.m. – 12 noon

December 3

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 64:1-4; I Corinthians 1:3-9  
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Hoping and Waiting*

December 10

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND COMMUNION

Isaiah 40:1-11; Mark 1:1-8  
Reverend Trajan I. McGill  
*Speak Tenderly to Jerusalem*

December 17

#### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Luke 1:46-55  
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*Unexpected Joy*

December 24

#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-14  
Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer  
*A Sacred Journey*

December 31

#### FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 61:10, 62:3; Luke 2:22-40  
Rev. Trajan McGill  
*A Light for Revelation and Glory*

### ADVENT AT WESTMINSTER

Advent Family Devotionals and Faithful Families Advent Calendars have been mailed to families and are available in the West Narthex. Each Sunday, Westminster's new members light the Advent candles during both worship services.

#### ADVENT CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 3, 11:15 a.m. Fellowship in Parish Hall



The Advent Celebration will follow the 10:00 a.m. service of worship which will include the musical presentation of "Will You Be Ready" by the Children's and Chorister Choirs, directed by Dale Rogers. The entire congregation is invited to gather in Parish Hall with the children and their families following worship to sing carols, led by Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer and to enjoy refreshments. During the gathering children will create Advent wreaths,

Christmas ornaments, and decorate cookies. Families are invited to bring **Toys for Tots** to share during this season of giving! Special thanks to Mary Ray and Meridith Bryans for coordinating the reception and activities.

#### WESTMINSTER AT FOUR: CHRISTMAS VESPERS

Sunday, December 10, 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Music for this service will be presented by the Westminster Choir, the Walnuts, the St. Andrew's Sisters, Dale Rogers, organist and Dee Dee Gain, accompanist. Featured works are by Bach, Schubert, Fauré, Mathias, and others. A Christmas hymn and an excerpt from a Christmas sermon written by Martin Luther commemorates the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PAGEANT

Sunday, December 17, 10:00 a.m.



The Sunday school classes will come together under Sue Cull's leadership to experience the Christmas Story and Nativity in the Second Floor Classroom. Don't miss this great Westminster tradition!

The children will process through the Sanctuary during the final hymn in costume and conclude in the Chancel with the pastors for the charge and benediction.



## FROM THE PASTOR by Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

"so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which God has called you..." Ephesians 1:18

Dear Friends,

St. Andrew's Sunday was a festive culmination of the Christian calendar year for the Westminster family as 300 members and friends gathered for worship. The bagpipers brought us back to our Scottish roots, and we reflected together on Paul's prayer that we look through the eyes of the heart as we celebrated Christ the King on the final Sunday of the year.



As we begin the Christian calendar anew with Advent, let us prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ Child. Sometimes it is difficult to conceive how it is that the Sovereign One who created the ends of the earth would join us in our humanity and embrace us in a love beyond our understanding. Music will nourish our spirits this Advent as we contemplate the wonder of our faith, the gift of our children, and the story that never grows old.

## APNC UPDATE

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee met on November 14 to begin their work together. The required financial statement has been completed and forwarded for approval by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. The APNC will meet December 5 to elect their chair and to begin work on the Ministry Information Form. The committee's goal is to be actively engaged on the Leadership Connection Call System of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by the end of January and begin receiving PIFs (Personal Information Forms) from perspective candidates.

Please keep the committee in your prayers: *Sandy Bellatti, Lucas Carpenter, Susan Day, Craig Morrison, Christy Pound, Emma Shafer, Karen Sherrick, Pete VanGieson, and Bill Ward.*

## MEMORIAL GARDEN

### SOUTH WALL TO BE ADDED SPRING OF 2018

Our Memorial Garden is a place of peace and repose for the ashes of those inurned within its wall. The wall contains secure niches for cremated remains. Paved paths and benches offer opportunity for private meditation. A traditional Celtic cross depicts the post resurrection appearances of Christ when he appeared in the garden. Last spring a new decorative rod iron fence was added to the garden.



The Memorial Garden Committee is initiating the completion of the south wall in the spring of 2018. This wall will be adjacent to the east wall near Edwards Street and will add 180 niches. We currently have 27 niches available in the east wall. The cost of an individual inurnment in the existing east wall is \$750 for a member and \$1,500 for a non-member. Persons desiring to reserve space in the garden are invited to complete an application form.

Committee: *Bill Donels: Chair, Chris Elzea, Richard Herndon, Dr. Glen Pittman, Dr. Andrew Sherrick and Lionel Stirrett.*

## MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

**THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR** and Choristers join forces when they sing in worship and at the Advent Celebration on December 3. Children should meet in the Chancel that morning at 9:25 a.m. to rehearse *Will You Be Ready?*

**THE WESTMINSTER CHORISTERS** sing carols for residents at Concordia on Tuesday, December 12. Meet at Concordia at 4:30 p.m. and please pick up your child at 5:30 p.m.

**THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR** and friends will again go to Millikin for the Christmas Vespers on Saturday, December 2, an outstanding choral experience featuring 250 singers and orchestra. December rehearsals are on Thursdays, December 7, 14 & 21 and Saturday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. The Choir Christmas dinner will be in Parish Hall following the Christmas Vespers on December 10.

**CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATIONS FUNDS** Members and friends are invited to make a suggested donation of \$25 to support Westminster's decorations and music funds. Donations which require wording for the December 10 bulletin need to be received no later than Monday, December 4. Please note the fund in the memo of your check. Thank you for your generosity!

## WESTMINSTER COOP PRESCHOOL FRIENDSHIP FEST

On Thursday, November 16 Dale Rogers led the children of our Preschool in a series of songs of thanksgiving, songs about cooking and songs about food using percussion instruments from the Church Mice program.

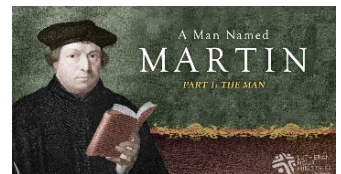
**CHURCH MICE** will not meet during December. Sessions resume on Saturday, January 13 at 11 a.m.

## ADULT EDUCATION

### A MAN NAMED MARTIN

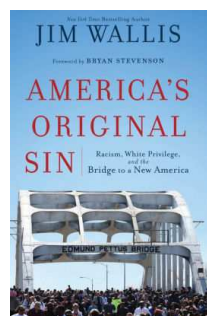
SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 10 AND 17

The Adult Education Forum meets Sunday mornings, December 10 and 17 from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon. In December, we conclude the DVD series *A Man Named Martin* in celebration of the Reformation Anniversary of the Reformation. Join us as we revisit Church history and the events that shaped who we are today!



## AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SIN

SUNDAYS, JANUARY 5, 12, 19



In January, Becky Martin will lead us in a discussion of Jim Wallace's book *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* as we continue the important conversation about the deep roots of America's racism and explore our responsibility for white privilege.

Becky Martin teaches English at Lanphier High School. She has been teaching 25 years, last 11 at Lanphier. She received her Bachelors degree in English from Illinois State University and earned a Masters in English and a Masters in History from UIS. She is an active participant in Faith Coalition for the Common Good serving on their Education Committee and participating in their monthly Sacred Conversations at St. Cabrini Catholic Church. Becky has served as an Elder, a Deacon, a youth leader and currently sings in the Westminster Choir.

## YOUTH UPDATES/CALENDAR by Natalie Knox

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

**5:00 p.m. THE CONFIRMANDS AND THEIR MENTORS** will travel to Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church to attend Mass on Saturday, December 2. We are so blessed to have our fabulous Confirmation mentors: **Dee Dee Duffy, Joe Fierstos, Meg Kontio, and Mary Gail Romack.**

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

**11:15 a.m. Advent Celebration:** Following the 10:00 a.m. worship service, the youth are invited to Parish Hall for cookie-decorating, ornament-making, holiday brunch, and caroling!

**12:00 noon Contact Ministries Shop:** Following the Advent Celebration, join us to buy gifts for local teenagers in need for Contact Ministries' Annual Christmas Distribution!

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

**11:15 a.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service Rehearsal:** The Confirmation Class and youth participants in the Children's Christmas Eve service will gather in the Sanctuary after worship for a rehearsal.

**5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth Group** will meet in the Youth Room for dinner and youth group. Topic: Service and Empowerment with guest speaker Jenny Nuccio, Founder of Imani Collective, with whom Jen DeJong recently traveled to Kenya. All members are invited to the DeJong home at 3:00 pm to hear about her trip and do some Christmas shopping!

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

**11:15 a.m. Full Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal:** Everyone involved in the Children's Christmas Eve Service will gather after worship for a rehearsal.

**4:30 p.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols Rehearsal:** Our senior class will gather in the Sanctuary to rehearse for the traditional Service of Lessons and Carols.

**5:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party:** The Junior and Senior High are invited to the DeJong home from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for a holiday potluck! Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

### SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

Our junior high youth will serve as worship leaders and liturgists during the 5:00 p.m. Children's Service, while high school seniors will read scripture and light candles during the 7:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols.

**THANK YOU** to Dave and Val Leonatti who volunteered as panelists for "Relationship Night" at youth group! The youth learned from their wisdom and advice on dating and marriage.

## WPC YOUNG ADULTS

Care packages were mailed to our current freshmen and sophomores in college the week before thanksgiving. They received baked goods, knitted scarves and hats, dorm room essentials, and notes of encouragement from the youth group and adult volunteers.

Current college freshmen met for coffee while home for Thanksgiving Break. Pictured: Austin Robbs and Annie Sherrick catching up!



WPC Young Adults (ages 18-29) met on Sunday, November 26, at Obed and Isaac's. We welcomed home our college students and rekindled old friendships from our childhoods at Westminster! We will take a break in December and will resume on January 28, 2018.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES by Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill

### BRIDGES SING AT CONCORDIA

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

On Tuesday, December 12, Bridges children will bring greetings and sing carols for our friends at Concordia. WPC members will also receive gift bags with ornaments created at the Advent Celebration. We will also enjoy some homemade cocoa by Dale Rogers.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The second and third grade Sunday school children completed the "Matthew Mural" in November. Nearly all of the fall Bible

readings have been from Matthew, so they decided to find out who was this man who wrote all these things in the Bible. It was a wonderful group effort! Many thanks to our creative Sunday school teachers.



### WESTMINSTER PARENTS CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

#### Saturday, December 9, 6:00 p.m.

All Westminster parents are invited to gather, child-free, at the DeJong home (1955 South Illini Road) for a Christmas potluck. Please bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift.

### FAITH JOURNALING BIBLE STUDY

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 7:00 P.M. AT THE SHERRICK HOME

Members and friends are invited to gather at the Sherrick home (1608 S. Wiggins Ave) on Monday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. to explore an artistic way of interacting with Scripture through creative writing, journaling, painting, doodling, and sketching. No art skill is necessary and children in kindergarten and older are welcome to join their parents as we nurture our spiritual lives! We will also create an advent art calendar. Please RSVP to Rev. Sarah Iliff McGill ([smcgill@wpcspi.org](mailto:smcgill@wpcspi.org)) by Thursday, December 7 so that we have enough supplies.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

#### REHEARSAL IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

All children are invited to participate in tableaus during the 5:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service as the Confirmands read the Christmas story! Children will participate as shepherds, angels, magi, and roaming lambs.



**Plan to attend a walk through rehearsal on Sunday, December 17 at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.** Please arrive on Christmas Eve at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom, where children will receive a costume and be given instructions.

## HIGHLIGHTS AT WESTMINSTER

### CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

Wednesday, November 15

On Wednesday, November 15 WPC joined 70 children from the Islamic Society of Springfield, Grace United Methodist Church and Temple Israel for a journey of friendship and service. The evening concluded with fellowship around tables. [Our next gathering will be at Temple Israel on Wednesday, January 24!](#) It's not too late to become a part of this meaningful journey for our children!



### NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED AND RECOGNIZED Sunday, November 19



**Jane Baudino** joins Westminster by letter of transfer from Hope Presbyterian in Springfield, IL. Jane worked in advertising prior to her retirement. She likes to draw, paint, garden, and explore her genealogy. Her daughter is an elder at Westminster, Nichole Magalis. *Jane's sponsors are Nancy & Lon Scott*



**Sandee Deilkes** joins Westminster by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian in Lincoln, IL. Sandee has four grandchildren: David, Dennis, Rachel, and Rebecca. She is active in the Westminster Choir and Dr. Kieffer's Bible study. *Sandee's sponsor is Tempa Dunn.*



**Mary Peura** joins Westminster by reaffirmation of faith from Blessed Sacrament. Mary and Morley Peura have been married 39 years and raised their four children as a dual church family. She was a special education teacher, worked for a non-profit, and has volunteered over the years. *Mary's sponsor is Lynne O'Shea.*



**Chao Wang** joins Westminster by reaffirmation of faith. She grew up in a Christian Church in China. Chao is a college student at University of Illinois at Springfield studying accounting. She likes to cook and to read, and attends Dr. Kieffer's Bible study. *Chao's sponsor is Lynne Cleverdon*



**Donald Lee "DL" Stanfield** joins Westminster by reaffirmation of faith. He retired from Lincoln State Bank where he worked for over 30 years. For many years, he sang with the Westminster Choir and enjoyed the choir's tours to England and Scotland. He now enjoys tending the garden at the Town House. *DL's sponsor is Bill Ward*

DL was unable to be present on November 19.

## COMPASS THANKSGIVING GATHERING

Tuesday, November 21

Compass children enjoyed a delicious turkey dinner the week of Thanksgiving and created posters listing the things for which they are grateful.

Central Baptist Church partners with us in providing this after-school program on Tuesdays for at-risk children from Graham Elementary School. Children are given homework tutoring, and developmental and life skills lessons.

New to this Compass site this year: the "Backpack Program," which provides a weekend's worth of healthy food for all the children served by the program, many of whose households have difficulty covering these basics.

Thanks to new and returning volunteers **Cathy Allen, Carolyn Beatty, Nancy Canady, Rich Canady, Rance Carpenter, Ada Cobourn, Ann Collins, Barb Dirksen, Kathy Germeraad, David Haaker, Bill Hibbert, Pat Hymans, Carole Kennerly, Lynn McMenamain, Judi Mier, Bill Schlosser, Linda Schlosser, Sue Sawers, and Jack Zerfas.**



## ST. ANDREW'S SUNDAY

November 26



Westminster continued the rich tradition of celebrating St. Andrew's Sunday with a flourish of bagpipes and drums presenting traditional Scottish music. *The Little Entry* was the opening procession of the service. Along with the pipers, drummers and the pastors, youth entered with the Bible to underscore the importance of the Word of God in Reformed liturgy and the cross to highlight the centrality of the cross within our faith on Christ the King Sunday.



## SANCTUARY LIGHTING MAINTENANCE

Provides Photo Opportunity

Thank you to Rich Canady & Kevin Proctor, who assisted Gary Warnick & the custodial staff in replacing bulbs in the sanctuary ceiling, and to Bob Fox who utilized the lift for some great new sanctuary photos.



ADVENT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ADOPT A FAMILY: Gifts for 9 families are being provided in collaboration with Contact Ministries. Please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the West Narthex and return gifts to the church before Sunday, December 10. Sign up is located at Volunteer Desk. Please let us know which family for which you are shopping and do not wrap presents. (The parents of each family will wrap their children's presents and volunteers will wrap the presents for each mother.) Contact Kay Smith (691-9401) with questions.

TOYS FOR TOTS box is in the West Narthex. Place unwrapped gifts for children of all ages in it. This outreach is sponsored by the Marine Corps Reserve.

THE MITTEN TREE for Contact Ministries is in the West Narthex. Please donate by Wednesday, December 13. In addition to children's items, adult gloves, hats, and scarves are also needed. There are many empty clothespins on the tree for additions!



CONTACT MINISTRIES DISTRIBUTION will be hosted here on Wednesday, December 13. Recipients were asked to pre-register. Sign-up sheets with duties and job descriptions will be available Sunday, December 3.

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING is an annual special collection of the Presbyterian Church. It supports church workers and their families in times of need and funds scholarships for racial / ethnic students. Please look for the offering envelopes to give toward this special fund, and nurture the promise of future leaders and those who serve the church.

IMANI COLLECTIVE is an organization which equips, encourages, and sustainably employs women in Kenya and provides children with access to education. Jen DeJong recently returned from Kenya, where she has been working with this organization. On Sunday, December 10, 3:00 – 4:30 p.m., she will host an opportunity at her



home (1955 S. Illini Road) to learn more and meet the founder of Imani. They will also present to the Westminster youth that evening. Speak to Jen to hear more details about this valuable work and to see how you can get involved or support the organization!



UNICEF OFFERING was collected in October and totaled \$276. Thank you to all who contributed.

EARTH CARE NEWS

A RECYCLING CORNER is located in the West Narthex near the Church Officer mailboxes. You will find bins for recycling the following:



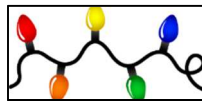
INK CARTRIDGES AND TONER DRUMS

We continue to recycle ink cartridges and toner drums. You are welcome to bring your cartridges (without packaging).

NEW! BATTERY RECYCLING

We began recycling in late November and are getting a great response. Place batteries in the marked bin.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT RECYCLING



We will provide the opportunity to recycle the valuable copper in Christmas lights again this Advent. Please place your nonworking lights (without any other packaging material) in the labeled

bin. Last Christmas we recycled 110 lbs.

MISSION ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTIONS FOR NOVEMBER

The Mission and Community Service Committees have recently approved funding several projects:

- \$10,000 to assist the Illinois Presbyterian Home in their infrastructure upgrade projects. Exciting new growth is happening at the Presbyterian Home!
• \$7,500 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, funding relief work following this year's numerous major hurricanes. This is in addition to over \$12,000 donated directly by members of this congregation! If you are interested in joining a group trip to one of the hurricane-affected regions and taking part in hands-on relief work (likely in late winter or early spring), talk to Trajan McGill.
• \$2,500 in funding for Compass for Kids, the weekly after-school program we host for children from Graham Elementary. (See photos on page 5.)

Thanks to all of you for your enthusiasm in bringing these projects before us, for volunteering for these causes, and for helping make our financial contributions possible with your giving to Westminster's Support and Endowment Fund.

HELPING HANDS The November meal was provided by Sarah Zerfas. December will be provided by Carolyn and Brad Swanson. We still have meal dates available for 2018.

ST. JOHN'S BREADLINE SUNDAY raised \$440.00. Thank you!

GIVE -A- MEAL -A- MONTH DECEMBER MENU Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Hash, Oatmeal Packets, Canned Fruit in 100% juice/water. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank. Items in High Demand: feminine hygiene products, shampoo, diapers & wipes size 3 and up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

HOME COMMUNION was delivered November 12 to ten members by four teams of elders and deacons. If you are unable to attend worship on December 10 and would like to receive Holy Communion, contact Jennie Alt. Many thanks to those participating in bringing the Lord's Supper

POINSETTIA DELIVERIES: The Board of Deacons will be delivering Christmas poinsettias to members who lost loved ones in 2017 and to members of the Westminster family who reside in Illinois Presbyterian Home and Lewis Memorial Christian Home. Flowers will be delivered beginning Sunday, December 10.

## FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION** gather for fellowship and knitting every Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. The Christmas lunch will be on December 5 at 12:00 p.m.

## DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE)

Thank you all for a wonderful year of fellowship and to musician Ed Gelbach who bid us farewell to 2017 with delightful traveling music. We will see you in March 2018.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**PW LUNCHEON** will meet **Friday, December 1** at noon in Parish Hall. Kitchen Chair is Pat Hymans. The Chair of the Day is Pat Shafer. We will listen to Christmas music and close with our traditional prayer circle.



**ELIZABETH CIRCLE** will meet Monday, December 4th at 5:30pm in Parish Hall for a Christmas Fellowship Dinner. The Knox Family will provide special music.

**RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE** meets **Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.** for our annual holiday gathering in the home of Stephanie Moore (9 Pine Tree Drive, 62704). We will discuss Chapter 3 “Taking Possession of Ourselves” of *Imperfect Control: Our Lifelong Struggles with Power and Surrender* by Judith Viorst.

**LYDIA CIRCLE** will meet **Tuesday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m.** in Parish Hall for a Christmas Salad Luncheon. Gloria St. Lawrence will be the hostess, and Carolyn Beatty will lead devotions.

## PRESBYTERIAN MEN

**MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST** will meet **Thursday, December 14, at 7:00 a.m.** in Parish Hall. Dave Leonatti will introduce our guest speaker Joel Horwedel, Executive Director of Memorial Gardens, who will present “A Sanctuary for All Seasons.” Harold Hale will provide the breakfast. Please RSVP to Stephanie at [smoore@wpcspi.org](mailto:smoore@wpcspi.org).

## ILLINOIS PRESBYTERIAN HOME

A Christmas Open House will be held on Sunday December 3. Please stop by and enjoy festive decorations, cookies, punch, and holiday music. We are looking forward to showing you our remodeled Front Parlor and many other updates. Your generous support helps us grow and thrive.

The last card sale will be Tuesday, December 5, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Museum of Modern Art cards are available. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Baker.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for all of the Christmas cards donated to the IL Presbyterian Home. We appreciate every donation and sale.

-Sue Baker

## WESTMINSTER NEWS

### MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

Louise Cragoe celebrates 93 years on December 5.

Edith Irwin celebrates 94 years on December 14.

George Johnson celebrates 93 years on December 20.

### WEDDINGS

Jennifer Peura and Jack Hester were married September 25 in Soldotna, Alaska. Dr. Elizabeth Peura and James Johnson were married October 22 at Erin's Pavilion. Jennifer & Elizabeth are the daughters of Mary & Morley Peura.

### IN MEMORIAM

Clifton L. Tozer died on November 3, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his wife, Dolores Tozer, his sons Michael (Gail) Tozer and Dr. Randall (Beverly) Tozer, and their families. A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 6, 2:00 p.m. at Concordia Village.

Lisa Wise died on November 10, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her husband Todd Wise and their children Morgan Wise Durco (Scott) and Eric Wise.

Margot Kramer died on November 17, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to her daughter Leslie (Philip) Downey, son Lane (Melody) Kramer, and their families. A memorial service will be held Friday, December 8, 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Earl Ray died on November 26, 2017. The prayers and sympathy of the congregation are extended to his family Deb and Dave Coontz and their son Drew.

### SYMPATHY EXTENDED TO

Sandy and Jon Hockenyos on the death of Sandy's brother, Dr. John Greenleaf, November 3 in California.

Margie and Bill Wheelhouse on the death of Bill's father, Robert Wheelhouse, November 5 in Rushville, IL.

### 2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE LIVING GENEROUSLY

As of Tuesday, November 28, we have received 237 pledges for a total of \$793,368. This is 96% toward our dollar amount goal. **Please make your pledge by December 10.**



### OCTOBER FINANCIAL REPORT by Lisa Runkle

Giving increased in October! Now the net total is only \$21,299 expenses exceeding income. We are noticing stronger donations, and expect income to meet the amount budgeted by year-end.

2017 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 789,626	\$ 820,728	\$ - 31,102
Expenses	\$-810,925	\$-820,728	\$ 9,803
Net	\$ -21,299	\$ 0	

### YEAR-END 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, we want to thank all of those who have made donations to the church, and especially to those who have already fulfilled your 2017 pledge. If you need assistance determining the amount you have donated compared to the amount of your pledge, just call the office, and Lisa Runkle would be happy to help. **Be sure any donations for the 2017 tax year are dated 2017 and received no later than noon on Tuesday, January 3, 2018.**

**CHRISTMAS EVE AT WESTMINSTER  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**10:00 A.M. CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING WORSHIP**

The Westminster family will gather to light the Fourth Advent Candle on Christmas Eve morning in one service of worship at 10:00 a.m. Worship will include the singing of favorite Christmas carols and readings. Childcare will be provided and a combined Sunday School class presents "Jesus is Born."

**5:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S SERVICE**

The Confirmation Class of 2018 will read the Christmas story and the children will participate as shepherds, angels and magi under the direction of a designated leader. Children, ages three and under, will be freely roaming lambs. **Participating children need to arrive at 4:45 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to receive their costume.**

**6:00-7:30 P.M. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER**

**HOSTED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS**

Do not miss this special event which includes a delicious meal of roast turkey, baked ham, two types of potatoes, gravy, vegetables, garden salad, rolls, and fresh fruit pies. Adults are \$17, children 6-12 are \$11.50 and children ages 5 and under are at no charge. Please go to our website or send your payment and number attending to the church. **Reservations and payment required no later than Monday, December 18.** Sign-up forms will be in the December 3, 10, 17 bulletins & at sign-up tables.

**7:30 P.M. SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

The Westminster Choir will provide the choral music and our high school seniors will read the Christmas Story in this 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Dr. Kieffer will give the meditation. In ancient times, church bells were silenced during Advent. Yet, at the singing of the angel's song, "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" the bells rang out. We follow that tradition by ringing bells during the singing of the closing carol.

**SO BRING YOUR SILVER BELLS, BRASS BELLS,  
JINGLE BELLS, AND EVEN COW BELLS  
TO THIS SERVICE AND BE PREPARED TO RING OUT IN PEALS OF JOY!**

**11:00 P.M. CANDLE LIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**

The solemn, quiet joy of this lovely Candle Light Communion Service makes it a favorite for many and a meaningful way to welcome Christmas Day. The Rev. Trajan McGill will give the meditation and Sally Wilson Szudy, soprano soloist, will present special music.

**PRAYER MINISTRY**

This Advent we began the fifth year of Prayer Ministry at Westminster. As we enter into a new cycle of the Christian year, we begin a new cycle of praying for one another. Throughout the year, your pastors gather weekly in the Chancel to pray for members and the world. A letter is mailed three weeks prior to the week members are being lifted up in prayer to provide an opportunity to share prayer requests.

**Church offices will close Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26  
in observance of Christmas.**

**January Reporter Deadline is Tuesday, December 26.**

**Westminster Staff**

**The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
*Pastor and Head of Staff*  
bkieffer@wpcspi.org

**The Reverend Trajan I. McGill**  
*Associate Pastor for Parish Life*  
tmcgill@wpcspi.org

**The Reverend Sarah Iloff McGill**  
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