



THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

May 2024

WORSHIP &
EDUCATION

CALENDAR

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 a.m. In-person and
Livestream Worship Service
www.wpcspi.org

FAITH FORMATION:

9:45 a.m. Nursery
Children Birth – Age 3
10:15 a.m. Sunday School
following Children’s Sermon
Children Pre-K - Grade 5
11:15 a.m. Adult Ed Forum

May 5

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
The Rev. Gerald Boutelle
Connections to Power

May 12

MOTHER’S DAY

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm 1; John 17:6-19
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Roots and Wings

May 19

DAY OF PENTECOST

FOUNDERS’ SUNDAY

Romans 8:22-27; Acts 2:1-18
The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
Welcome to the Neighborhood

May 26

TRINITY SUNDAY

Isaiah 6:1-8; John 3:1-17
The Rev. Ann Schwartz,
Lead Presbyter
When the Spirit Moves

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION AND MOTHER’S DAY ANTHEM SUNDAY, MAY 12

This Mother’s Day, May 12, we will celebrate our moms with the Children’s Choir singing an anthem “A Family Recipe.” We will also present Bibles to our third graders and new members in fourth and fifth grade. They will receive a NRSV Spark Bible with an engraved name plate on the cover. Javiera “Abi” will receive a bilingual English/Spanish Bible. It is our hope and prayer that these scriptures become a guiding light for our children on their faith journey.

Nathan James Affrunti
Sam Sloane Berkowitz
Diana Da-Ae Choi
Aaleeviah Lanya Collins
August Joseph Ekstedt
Jenna Belle Hill

Isabela Rose McHenry
Luke Aarav McNutt
Charlotte Anne Moore
Paislee Grace Reich
Maeven Marie O’Reilly
Javiera “Abi” Velásquez Alonso



FOUNDERS’ SUNDAY, MAY 19

“WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD” PARTY!

Join us on Pentecost and Founders’ Sunday, May 19 for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a picnic reception in Parish Hall as we celebrate our new neighbors, the Velasquez Alonso Family. This partnership with WelcomeCorps and the Exodus World Service has been one of Westminster’s greatest joys in 2024. The Betty Smith Mission Endowment Fund along with the hospitality of so many members is truly inspiring. Come, join our fiesta featuring Nicaraguan dishes as we welcome our new neighbors.

Each year on Founders’ Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 17 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 21 and in the June Reporter.

Endowment Committee: Jeff Wilday, Chair, Jim Bryans, Randy Germeraad, Christy Pound, Dale Smith, Lucy Stafford. Advisory: Dr. Diane Rutledge and Todd Wise

THE WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ARE INVITED TO A GARDEN PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 18 AT 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

HOSTED BY LINDA PURVES

6 N. COTTON HILL LANE

INSTALLATION OF 2024-2025 OFFICERS

BIRTHDAY OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED.

RSVP at wpcspi.org or with jalt@wpcspi.org



Sermon manuscripts are located in the West Narthex and online at www.wpcspi.org.

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

BUILDING A LEGACY OF FAITH - Ten years ago, this month, the Support and Endowment Committee hosted their first reception to lay the foundation for the Building a Legacy of Faith Anniversary Endowment Campaign which officially began in January 2015. Kathy and Randy Germeraad hosted the gathering of over 40 members. In the last decade Westminster's Endowment Plan has grown from \$1.9 million to \$9 million. Endowment Earnings have provided \$783,500 in capital improvements and \$836,500 in mission giving to countless ministries locally, nationally, and internationally. Additionally, loan payments have been made since 2020 to reduce our original Steadfast Neighbor Site and Landscape Plan loan from \$1.2 to \$1.05 million.

Last Founders' Sunday we celebrated the Steadfast Neighbor Habitat Build welcoming the Capler Family as our new neighbors. This year we will host a "Welcome to the Neighborhood" Party for our newest neighbors, the Velasquez Alonso Family.

UPDATE FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

BY CHAIR CHRISTY POUND

Rev. Choi requested and will begin temporary leave (up to 90 days) May 1, 2024. This leave is a benefit provided by the Presbyterian Church (USA) Board of Pensions.

Sophia and the children will remain active in the life of our congregation; however, we ask the congregation to honor his space by limiting contact with Rev. Choi during his leave of absence.

The Rev. Gerald Boutelle, who serves as Westminster's Parish Associate, has offered to provide additional pastoral care and worship leadership during this time.

DR. KIEFFER PREPARES FOR 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Kieffer will be in Salt Lake City Monday, May 6 - Thursday, May 9 in her role as a member of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) to assist in preparing for the 226th General Assembly of the PC(USA).

Dr. Kieffer has served on COGA since June of 2020.

The 226th General Assembly begins with online committee meetings June 25 - 27. Commissioners will then travel to Salt Lake City for the plenary June 29 - July 4, 2024. This assembly's theme "Live into Hope" is based on Jane Parker Huber's hymn. Dr. Kieffer will also be attending the assembly this summer.



WE WELCOME LEAD PRESBYTER TO OUR PULPIT



On Trinity Sunday, May 26, we will welcome the Rev. Ann Schwartz to our pulpit. Rev. Schwartz joined the Great Rivers Presbytery staff as our Lead Presbyter in 2023.

Prior to this position, Ann served as Pastor/Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church in Danville, Illinois (2016 - 2023), staff Chaplain at Carle

Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois (2014-2016) and Co-Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hoopston, Illinois (1999-2012). Ann is married to the Rev. Wade Meranda, also a PCUSA pastor. They have two adult daughters. She loves traveling and exploring new places, reading, writing, walking, cooking, and spending time outside. Ann was a commissioner to the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis.

We are grateful for Ann's leadership in our presbytery and for her willingness to step into our pulpit on May 26.

MUSIC NOTES by Dale T. Rogers

THE WESTMINSTER CHOIR will not rehearse on Thursday, May 2 as many members are going to New Harmony. The regular 7:00 p.m. rehearsal will be on May 9, 23, and 30. A special rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. Special attention is now given to a cantata of Felix Mendelssohn for Soprano, Chorus, and Organ. Eleanor VanDeventer is the soloist for *Hear My Prayer*, special music on Pentecost/Founders' Sunday on May 19.

ST. ANDREW'S SISTERS meets Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julie Blythe.

THE WESTMINSTER CHILDREN'S CHOIR will present special music for Mother's Day, May 12.



THE ANNUAL CHOIR BRUNCH will be Sunday, June 2 at the home of Meg and Jim Kontio following the 10:00 a.m. service as we celebrate the close of the season. Summer Choir will meet on July 11 to prepare for Sunday, July 14.

ADULT EDUCATION FORUM:

THE GOSPEL OF J. EDGAR HOOVER SUNDAY, MAY 5

The adult education forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 100th Anniversary of J. Edgar Hoover's FBI career, explore how Hoover and the FBI teamed with leading white evangelicals and Catholics to support a vision of a white Christian America. Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz



BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY SUNDAY, MAY 12

The adult education forum meets at 11:15 a.m. in Parish Hall. On the 200th Anniversary of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, learn the story of how Beethoven's hearing loss did not deter his creativity, but instead, expanded it. Led by Dale T. Rogers

DR. KIEFFER'S BIBLE STUDY POTLUCK MAY 16

Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study celebrates their 2023-2024 journey through Genesis, John, and the Holy Land Revealed on Thursday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. with communion and a potluck dinner at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer.

APOSTLES' READ LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets Tuesday, May 28 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss Moonlight, Murder & Small Town Secrets by KC Hart. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.



THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM

DATE: Wednesday, May 8, 2024
TIME: 4:30-6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Springfield Art Association (700 North Fourth Street)
WHO: Children & Youth Grades K-12

Join us for our last gathering in the 2023-2024 program year as we participate in an art project created by members of the Springfield Art Association board.

Lunch bags will be provided by the Temple B'rith Sholom.

TEACH THE
CHILDREN
SO IT WILL
NOT BE
NECESSARY
TO TEACH
THE ADULTS
- Abraham Lincoln

YOUTH MINISTRY by Mary Ray

END-OF-YEAR GATHERING

Junior and Senior High will gather on Sunday, May 19 at 5:00 p.m. for an end-of-the-year party. Details will follow.

EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR INDUCTION



Several from Will Hovey's Westminster family gathered to support him at his Scout Court of Honor Induction including two Eagle Scouts Dr. Scott Day and Greg Swanson.

WESTMINSTER SUPPORTS CHILD OF CONGREGATION

Westminster provided a \$500 scholarship to Kristina Hemberger who was confirmed in the Class of 2017 and attends the University of Missouri. She will travel overseas May 21 on a mission trip to share the Gospel and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to college students in South Asia through the SALT Company mission. Kristina is grateful to Westminster who provided the foundation for her faith with special thanks to Sunday School teachers Mary Ray and Karen Dillon. Please keep Kristina in your prayers for traveling mercies and a meaningful, life-changing experience.



BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY, JUNE 2

On Baccalaureate Sunday, June 2, we recognize our graduating high school seniors during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship.

All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 2 bulletin and the June Newsletter. Please contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) with information by Friday, May 24.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

BRIDGES CULMINATES YEAR ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Our 3rd grade children will be receiving special Bibles on Mother's Day (May 12), and we are spending the last few sessions of Bridges for the year working on Bible literacy so that they can make the best use of their new copies of scripture! Activities include Bible scavenger hunts, getting familiar with the "extras" included in many Bibles like maps and study aids, and creating custom bookmarks to go inside the new Spark Bibles. We'll finish the year's Bridges activities by hosting the children's guests (including many 2nd graders who will hopefully join Bridges next year) on May 1st and a special sendoff featuring the adult Bridges' Advocates on May 15th.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS JUNE 2!

Summer Sunday school begins on June 2! Children in Kindergarten through Grade 2 will continue to meet in the Third Floor Chapel with Meleah Berkowitz and Ministry Partners and children in Grade 3 through 5 will continue to meet in the Third Floor Tower Classroom with Aaron Berkowitz and Ministry Partners.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT JUNE 3-7, 2024

Registration is open for this year's VBS which is Monday - Friday, June 3-7 from 9:15 a.m. to noon. Children ages 4 to grade 5 will gather to experience God's love surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills! Campers learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, we will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world. Register a child or as a volunteer at <https://wpcspi.mycokesburyvbs.com/>



WESTMINSTER COOPERATIVE PRE-SCHOOL



April has been a wonderful spring month at the preschool with many beautiful days to play outside! Our study this month was transportation. We made license plates, built train tracks, drove cars through shaving cream and had a car wash afterwards, and enjoyed gravel and vehicles in the sensory table. Coleman and Mary Moore have earned MVP this year at the preschool! This month they created a train for the students in our dramatic play center. They have traveled far and wide on this train! There have been several derailments, but we've successfully made it to most of our destinations! We ended the month with a beautiful Spring Fun Fair outside on our playground. This whole family event had flowers to plant, flowers to paint, spray bottle painting, a duck pond, and more. Thank you to local artist, Elijah Miller, who donated his time to face-paint for WCP.

We got exciting news this month that we received a grant from the American Business Club of Springfield to purchase additional supplies to make our outdoor time more enriching. We are so excited and thankful! Enrollment looks good for next year, but we still have spots available in our two-day class (for 2 ½ - 3 year olds which meets Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00-11:30) and a couple of spots in our three day class (for 3 year olds which meets Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 9:00-11:30).

YOUTH MISSION TRIVIA FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, APRIL 14



Thank you to all who supported the Trivia Fundraiser. **The evening brought in \$5,655.** Congratulations to the winning team Cara Barnett, Meridith and Jim Bryans, Christie and Robyn Hovey, Lisa Metzger, Angel and Kevin Simonson, Greg and Megan Swanson and thank you to round sponsors: Marc Anderson, Sandy Bellatti, Susan Day, Suzanne Dennis, Hockenyos Family, Mary Ray and Leigh Milward. Susan Shea.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AND FAMILY MATTERS ZOO OUTING



Bridges children worked on Bible literacy in preparation for the Third Grade Bible Presentation. Family Matters Zoo Outing welcomed many families who explored God's creatures, great and small. Sunday School children welcomed Susan Shaw of the Earth Care Committee who brought an Eastern Black Swallowtail to Sunday School! They had a great discussion on butterflies as analogous for Christ's resurrection and then released the butterfly outside the church.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, APRIL 21



Confirmands William Charles Affrunti, Juliet Kathryn Boutelle, Juliana Charis Pickney Eastvold were celebrated on Confirmation Sunday. See their thoughtful Statements of Faith in the April 21 bulletin found under the Worship & Music tab of the website.

YOUTH SUNDAY, APRIL 28



Westminster's youth did not disappoint with the theme "Vine and Branches." Thoughtful meditations were shared by Kristianna Eastvold, Will Hovey, and Sam Simonson. Watch the live stream on our website and/or view photos in Photo Gallery. Thank you to Mary Ray, Director for Youth and mentors Cathy Brower, Susan Day, and Kyle Duffy. Special thanks to Dale Rogers for orchestrating the music and Dr. Kieffer for coordinating the service.

PARISH LIFE NEWS by Rev. Christian K. Choi

MISSION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

FIFTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR OUTREACH



Westminster begins its fifth year of fulfilling the congregation's commitment to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood over the course of the decade. Letters were sent to neighbors on behalf of the Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force with extended boundaries for the Matching Grant program. As of April 15, we have received 30 matching grant and 19 service week project applications.

SITE VISITS will be Monday–Wednesday, May 13–15.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION TEAM will meet Tuesday, May 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to finalize service week projects.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR TEAM MEETING will be Tuesday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall.

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK - JUNE 17-21

Mark your calendars and sign up online for this year's neighborhood outreach, **June 17 - 21**. We invite you to join us for one or more days during the third week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood. Additionally, on Juneteenth, which falls in the middle of the week, we can come together to celebrate our abolitionist foundation and give back to the community.

HUNGER ACTION TEAM

HELPING HANDS MEALS - Westminster prepares two meals each month for Helping Hands at their new location (2200 Shale Street). On 2nd Fridays, Westminster provides 60 bagged meals and on 4th Wednesdays we provide the equal number of hot meals to assist those who are seeking shelter. Thank you to Mary Ray and Pat Hymans for preparing the hot meal in April and to Mary King, Pat Hymans, Sue Sawers, and Krista Steller for preparing the bagged meals.

WESTMINSTER'S LITTLE PANTRY - Thanks to those who continue stocking our neighborhood micro pantry, on the grounds of Graham Elementary. If you are interested in helping, please sign up using/clicking the QR code here.



GIVE-A-MEAL-A-MONTH MAY MENU

Peanut butter, jam/jelly, canned soup with pop tops, granola/breakfast Bars, & dry cereal. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex for the Central Illinois Foodbank.

FAIR TRADE - There will not be a Fair Trade sale in May. Fair Trade products can be purchased during the week. Please contact the office for assistance.

COMPASS FOR KIDS' APPRECIATION DINNER



Compass for Kids will hold their annual appreciation dinner at Westminster on Monday, May 6 at 5:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. Since September of 2014, Westminster has been the site for Graham Elementary School, providing safe space, ministry partners, and

annual financial support.

Westminster members who collaborated with Compass this year are Cathy Brower, Ellen and Rance Carpenter, Tanya DeSanto, Juliana and Kristianna Eastvold, Angie Lafrenz, Jade and Jamie Robinson, and Diane Rutledge. Additionally, Emily Brower will work at Camp Compass this summer.

PENTECOST OFFERING

Westminster is celebrating Founders' Sunday on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Westminster will continue to participate in the Pentecost denominational offering which unites the church by helping youth begin their life with a solid foundation of faith. **Forty percent of all gifts stay within Westminster and our portion will support the 2024 Youth Mission Trip.**



EARTH AWARENESS FAIR



Peter Kieffer, Brad Steller, Susan Shaw, and granddaughter Thalia hosted the Westminster Earth Care table on April 20 at Union Square Park downtown. Sophia Diana, and Zach Choi stopped by to learn how to conserve water.

EARTH CARE TEAM: Chair, Peter Kieffer,

Keith Hamilton, Charlie King, Todd Lafrenz, Lynn McMenamin, Maribeth Norton, Susan Shaw, Brad Steller

ADOPT-A-STREET

On Wednesday, April 24 Peter Kieffer picked up trash in our neighborhood on Walnut between the blocks of Monroe and Canedy as part of our commitment.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT WESTMINSTER

EASTER LILY - Thank you to the Deacons who delivered or arranged for pickup of the 32 members who received a lily on Easter Sunday.

HOME COMMUNION - If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive communion at home on May 12, please contact Jennie Alt at the church office. Thank you to the three teams of elders and deacons who made visits to eight members on Sunday, April 14.

PARISH NURSE NEWS by Ellen Carpenter

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS & CONSULTATION will be available on Sunday, May 5 by Parish Nurse, Ellen Carpenter.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS NURSE HONOR GUARD Inaugural Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m. at Westminster. Nurse Honor Guard's mission is to recognize, honor, and remember nurses who have dedicated their lives to care for others by paying tribute in their life celebration.



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. The monthly brown bag lunch is May 14 with drinks provided. It is never too early to start knitting hats, scarves, and mittens. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

ELIZABETH CIRCLE meets Monday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. for our spring dinner at Dublin Pub. Please RSVP to Eleanor VanDeventer by Wednesday, May 3.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets Tuesday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m. in the church library. Sharon Zook will lead Lesson 8 "Lydia Encounters Jesus" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

RUTH AND NAOMI CIRCLE will meet Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Pat Wheat (11 Pickering Lane, 62712). Christy Pound will lead the devotional *Finding Faith in the Mundane* by Kathleen Norris (pages 363-368).

PW SPONSORS BLANKETS+ DURING MAY

PW and Springfield's Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Services collaborates with local communities to identify people with needs and secure resources to build a more viable future. Make checks payable to Westminster with Blankets+ in the memo line or give at wpcspi.org, choose the fund "Special Mission Donation", and type Blanket on the memo line.



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Thursday, May 9 at 8:00 a.m. in Parish Hall. The future head of Memorial Health and current Vice President, Kevin England, will speak on what's to come for Memorial. Rich Canady will provide breakfast and Roy Wehrle will provide devotions. Please RSVP on our website or by contacting the church office.

DMA (DON'T MENTION AGE) FRIDAY, MAY 10 AT 5:30 P.M. DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet **Friday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m.** for a potluck and Program at 6:15 p.m. Harl Ray, senior project manager for the Secretary of State's Department of Physical Services, will speak on the State Capital construction with a program called "Pardon Our Dust." RSVP with weekly email link, website, or by calling the church office.

CONCORDIA COMMUNION SERVICE THURSDAY, MAY 16

Members of Westminster will gather at Concordia Thursday, May 16 with Dr. Kieffer and Dale Rogers. Communion is at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12 noon.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

HIGHLIGHTS MEMORIAL GARDEN - Our Memorial Garden is a place of peace and repose for the ashes of those interred within its walls. A traditional Celtic cross, donated by Mary Alice Davis in memory of her husband, depicts the post resurrection appearances of Christ when he appeared in the garden. The cost of an individual inurnment in the South wall is \$1,000 for a member or their immediate family and \$2,000 for friends of Westminster. Persons desiring to reserve space may complete an application form located in the West Narthex and on our website. Memorial Garden Committee: Chair *David Mitchell, Dr. Scott Day, Sue Donels, Marci Irvine, Jim McDonough, Jeanne Pittman.*



MILITARY PLAQUE A slide show of the Military Plaque is posted on our website. We are grateful for the sacrifices and years of service to our country by each person listed. *If you or a family member have served in the military and are not included, please contact Jennie Alt at jalt@wpcspi.org with name, rank, branch and years of service.*

WESTMINSTER NEWS

MILESTONE BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

Judy Dees celebrates 91 years on May 5.

Linda & Bill Schlosser celebrate 61 years on May 11.

IN MEMORIAM

There will be a joint memorial service for the Rev. Dr. James and Mrs. Silvey Barge on June 1 at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY TO

Judy and Todd Knox on the death of Todd's aunt and to Neva Knox on the death of her sister-in-law, Lina Smith Knox, on March 28 in Tallahassee, Florida.

Mary Ray on the death of her uncle, John Lowrey, on April 13 in Sun City West, Arizona.

THANK YOU TO

Westminster for providing a mission grant which funded Will Hovey's Eagle Scout project that included 2 benches made from recycled plastic bottle caps and a Little Free Library he built in the shape of a school bus and to the many members who donated hundreds of children's books to stock the library. Will was inducted into the Eagle Scout Honor Guard on April 28.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

SPRINGFIELD LITURGICAL ARTS FESTIVAL MAY 4-11, 2024

The Liturgical Arts Festival will be held in many locations from May 4-11, 2024. The theme for 2024 is "Creation: Revelation of the Divine," - which is at once the Divine Act, the artistic process, and our imperiled planet; we look for our events to harness that artistic process to celebrate that Divine Act and advocate for that planet. Please go to their website <https://rb.gy/msgjwr> to see the schedule.

SPRINGFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY FRIDAY, MAY 17 AT 7:30 P.M.

The Springfield Choral Society will perform "In Paradisum" concert on Friday, May 17, 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception (524 E. Lawrence). Tickets are \$20 - purchased online <https://rb.gy/jagx5e> or at the door. 25% of the proceeds will benefit the *The Dale and Deborah Smith Center for Alzheimer's Research & Treatment at SIU Medicine.*



Jennie Alt, Diane Dietz, Jim Kontio, Adam Miller, Craig Kniffin, Brian Richardson, Dale Rogers, Eleanor and Lyle VanDeventer of the Westminster community sing in this Choral Society.

MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT by LISA RUNKLE

As the summer months are fast approaching, please remember to continue to send your offering in support of Christ's work at Westminster. We continue to show income above budget by more than \$51,500 since some donors completed their annual pledge early in the year. Expenses are under budget by more than \$18,500, so income over expenses is \$70,025 for the year.

2024 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	\$ 332,235	\$ 280,713	\$ 51,522
Expenses	\$-262,210	\$- 280,713	\$ 18,503
Net Total	\$ 70,025	\$ 0	

REACHING FOR OUR PER CAPITA GOAL

Thank you to the 104 members who have given Per Capita donations so far this year totaling \$3,874. We are 55% toward our \$7,000 goal. Westminster will pay \$37.25 for each confirmed member this year to support the mission and ministry of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

CONSIDER YOURSELF PART OF THE FAMILY ALL-CHURCH COOKOUT ON FRIDAY, MAY 31

The Tenth Annual All-Church Cookout to welcome new members and to recognize milestone members will be **Friday, May 31, 6:00 p.m. at the Kieffer Home.**

THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED! Mark your calendar and plan to attend this festive evening hosted by the Membership Committee. Please RSVP on SignupGenius or by calling Jennie Alt at 217-522-4415 and let us know whether you will bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.

<https://www.wpcspi.org/frmrsvp-all-church-cookout.html>

NEW MEMBERS AND MILESTONE MEMBERS will be recognized at the gathering and will be our guests. The evening will include a sing-along and boat rides.



VELASQUEZ ALONSO FAMILY NEWS

Javier, Eva, Abi, and Jonathan are settling in as they make Springfield their home.

Javier began working at Bunn-O-Matic Corp. on April 30. Eva is also exploring her options to work. Abi is enrolled in the fourth grade at Graham Elementary School, and has been attending Sunday school, Bridges, and Children's Choir. Jonathan also enjoys Sunday School and is happy with his new house and toys.



Thank you to those members who have been a part of their new beginning. The Refugee Subcommittee: Rachael Hickman, Jess Weitzel, Co-chairs, Richard Leary, Bob Leffler, Lynn McMenamin, Krista Steller, and Jeanne VanGieson who meet weekly.

The circle of welcome has been widened by members Beth Allen, Marc Anderson, Carolyn and Keith Beatty, James Capler,

Ellen Carpenter, Kristianna and Juliana Eastvold, Georgina Hudspeth, Peter Kieffer, Craig Kniffin, Vena Long, Katy Maeda, Mary and Coleman Moore, Marilyn Rigney, and Sam Simonson in various tours, visits, shopping trips, and medical consultations.

We look forward to honoring them at the "Welcome to the Neighborhood" Party on Founders' Sunday!

STEADFAST NEIGHBOR RENOVATION OF 518 S. GLENWOOD

The 518 S. Glenwood Rental Property continues to receive tender loving care in preparation for its sale this summer. Income from the sale will repay the Support and Endowment Loan. Session designated \$30,000 from the 2024 Steadfast Neighbor Mission budget to invest in renovating the home.

During April, primer and painting of the second and third floors has been completed and the first floor is near completion, Ruby Electric upgraded the



wiring and Prairie State Plumbing & Heating is roughing in plumbing for both bathrooms and kitchen. Engineered hardwood has been ordered from LL Flooring, and Larry Brookens will begin installation on May 20. He will also refurbish the stairway. The kitchen cabinets are being ordered from Cabinetland. Thank you for the persistent work of Ed Caupert, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Julie Robbs, Mike Sundquist and Pete VanGieson during the month of April.

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer
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The Reverend Christian K. Choi
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The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
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**Peter Bysko, James Capler,
Terry Gietl**
Part-time Custodians

*Reporter folding and mailing will be on
Wednesday, May 29 at 12:30 p.m.*