

Westminster News

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CHRIST IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Until it is made real by the love of Christ, Easter is really quite impossible to explain. Even then, it isn't easy to tie down. Without an actual experience of our Risen Lord words mean very little. One of the ways the risen Jesus was recognized was by his scars. A real life body was really raised, scars and all. This last Easter I stood before the congregation and said, "Christ Is Risen!" As I looked into many pairs of eyes that were looking back at me what we shared was much deeper than words and more powerful than any written phrase. As the response, "He Is Risen Indeed!" rang through the sanctuary what we shared was New Life. Here are some of the things New Life means to me:

- + As the earliest visitors to the tomb found out, the Easter message cannot be hoarded or confined. Instead, it must be shouted, shared and lived out.
- + Jesus doesn't save us from suffering - He saves us through suffering. The resurrected body has scars because scars are what make us who we are. Scars are part of real life. Scars encourage us to trust.
- + Easter is not an ending but a new beginning about which the earthly Lord told us and to which the Risen Christ invites us.

Since it isn't an ending, but a new beginning, let's continue our pilgrimage as an Easter people. The Sunday after Easter will see us receive 16 young men and women into church membership. Talk about NEW LIFE! This year the resurrection "lift" of Easter won't stop with Easter Sunday. May Christ be risen in our hearts and may that be reflected into the rest of the world in our lives!

May the blessing of God who creates life, be upon us as we celebrate life.

May the blessing of God who restores life, be upon us as we seek New Life.

May the blessing of God who sanctifies life, be upon us as we share life with others.

Prayer Requests

Prayer doesn't mean that you have exhausted all help. It is a way that we show concern and we invite God to be a part of our concern. Please take time to pray for these individuals and families.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Damian Santay | Bud Vance |
| Jan Lund | Lloyd Johnson, friend/Julie Robb |
| Dave Gott | Mary Benoit, friend/Therese Morfas |
| Kim Karlen | Moira Lucas, sister/Peggy Ogren |
| Jim Jaracz | Loren Cornell, friend/Tiffany Perez |
| The work of the Stephen Ministers | Tom O'Donnell, friend/Kittie Boyd |
| Robbie Osterman, serving in Iraq | Pat Warot |
| Rev. Joan Mier, friend/Elizabeth Flores | Promela Mehta |
| Jill Meyers | Heidi Morgan |
| Linda Trianan, friend/Cheryl Anderson | Judy Bainter, friend/Bobbie Platt |
| Gail Dixon | Nathan Pawlicki, nephew/Mike Pawlicki |
| Chuck Weier | Judy Bainter, friend/Bobbie Platt |
| Beverly Hughes | Therese Niemiec, sister/Jean Dixon |
| Barb Bartoszak, friend/Marianne Comstock | Gloria Fentress, friend/Wendy Borbely |
| Karen Comstock | Morgan Sidenbender, daughter/Wendy Borbely |
| James Daum, brother/Marianne Comstock | |
| Jean Gloff | |

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 838-3131. These names will appear on the printed list. Please call again when the situation or person has improved and may be removed from the list. Prayer concerns will be left on for one month. They will be renewed if requested. Some people are in need of prayers but do not want their names to appear on the printed list. If this is the case, please contact the prayer chain leaders, John Karcher (923-8023) or Clara Hanus (836-5727).



The Prayer Garden is a gathering place for the spirits, both ours and those we remember.



Thank You Note

I would like to thank those who sent cards, phone calls, and food during my stay in the hospital and at home.

Most of all the prayers sent up to God for me and my family during a trying time.

In Christian Love,
Clara Hanus

Westminster's Financial Snapshot

The Westminster Financial Snapshot is a brief summary of

- 1 The current revenue and expenses of the church and
- 2 A comparison of current revenue and expenses to the previous two years and to the 2011 budget.

This information is provided so that the congregation is kept up to date on the financial operations of the church.

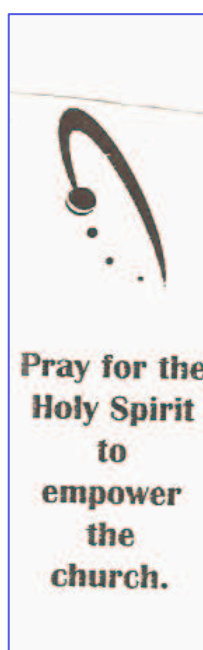
If you have any questions, please contact Terry Quinn or any Session member."


Westminster's Financial Snapshot for March 31, 2011

| | Month of <u>March</u> | Year to Date. <u>2011</u> | Jan-Dec. <u>2010</u> | Jan-Dec. <u>2009</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Operating Revenue | \$53,491.92 | \$158,850.21 | \$164,107.54 | \$167,016.54 |
| Operating Expenses | <u>58,523.93</u> | <u>162,029.33</u> | <u>173,073.06</u> | <u>162,199.49</u> |
| Surplus (Deficit) | \$ (5,032.01) | \$ (3,179.12) | \$ (8,965.52) | \$ (4,817.05) |

2011

| | Actual Year <u>To Date</u> | Budget Year <u>to Date</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Operating Revenue | \$158,850.21 | \$123,916.67 |
| Operating Expenses | <u>162,029.33</u> | <u>124,758.65</u> |
| Surplus (Deficit) | \$ (3,179.12) | \$ (841.98) |





Our God,
The breath of all that
we are in this world,
renew us, even now.
We glorify your
name forever.
May we share all that
you have given us
this day.
All praise to you!
In Christ's name we
pray.
Amen.

Session in April



Session Meeting



- Noted income for the first three months of 2011 is on pace with the budget
- Heard initial possibilities for financing the sanctuary renovation when it's presented.
- Enabled the Confirmation Class to serve communion on May 1. Session will meet with the class members individually to review their statements of faith. Dinner and the meetings will be April 26.
- Approved sale of Zandstra's coupons for garden supplies. Proceeds will support youth programs.
- Asked the Building manager to suggest space improvements for housing Sunday classes for WPC kids.
- Approved Deacon Day May 15 and an all-church golf outing, with proceeds to benefit the deacon fund.
- Asked Staff Review Committee to work with the pastor on a job description for a possible Parish Associate/Pastoral Care position. The Parish Nurse position will continue.
- Considered a letter from a member voicing displeasure with sound and video presentations at the traditional worship service.
- Elected Betty Curvey as Clerk for 2011.
- Met as Stream Team, Purpose Team and Stewardship Team for planning.

Betty Curvey, clerk



Pray for the
Holy Spirit
to
empower
the
church.



**Want to stimulate your mind?
Westminster is the place for you!**

9 a.m. in Room 106a

**Gather around the table
for group discussion relating to life as a Christian**

May 1 & 8 - *More on Calvinism* is the topic that the group will discuss.
We will touch on how it applies in other cultural and ethnic traditions.
Leader: Rich Grevengood

May 15 & 22 - *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in Our Busy Lives*
Wayne Muller's book shows us how to get ahead by slowing
down to achieve our heart's desires.
Leader: Jean Armstrong

10:30 a.m. in Room 209

**Share in this special opportunity
to learn from respected speakers**

May 1, 8 & 15 - *The Church and Social Issues in the Reformed Tradition*
Leader: Jennifer Ayers of McCormick Theological Seminary

May 1: Social Witness: Being Faithful in the Public Sphere
May 8: Entangled in the Curse: Sin and Social Action
May 15: With an Urgency Born of This Hope: Hope and Social Action

May 22 - *Story Journey*
Leader: Dan LeMonnier will give us an invitation to the Gospel as storytelling.





Come and hear God's story told through the voices of children!

Each child is given the opportunity to shine as they sing the story of

Esther

Malice in the Palace will be presented by the Joyful Strains Choir on this

**Sunday, May 1
at 4 p.m.**

in Westminster's Sanctuary
Under the leadership of
Verdeen Strain and Michelle Madl

Admission is free
Come early to get a good seat.



BLESSING OF PETS

**Saturday
April 30
10 a.m.**

at the canopy entrance

All animals are welcome provided they are under physical control (leash, harness, bridle, or crate) and are safe to be around others. If your pet is unable to be present, an article representing them (picture, collar, toy, halter, etc.) will be blessed on their behalf.



Spring Fever in Preschool

Spring fever is alive and well in our Westminster Preschool classrooms. Unfortunately, the warmer weather has not arrived with it. We have lots of Easter and spring artwork up in the hallways and our caterpillars have arrived and are growing! We are hoping to have better weather by the time we have butterflies that are ready to be released.

Staff members from Fitness Pointe were here on April 12 to do a fun fitness program for our three year olds. They were very patient with our youngest students. Our four and five year olds went on a bus ride through Munster with quick stops at each of the local elementary schools. The Munster school bus drivers were great and were able to point out various points of interest throughout the ride.

On Monday, April 18, our five year olds went to Purdue Calumet and visited the Challenger Learning Center. They really enjoyed the updated program that was presented. Mrs. Domasica said the staff members commented on the children's behavior, as well as how much they knew about space. This week our students are doing Earth Day activities, as well as Easter egg hunts in all classes.

Next week we will wrap-up April with Pizza Day for our four year olds and the annual "un-birthday" party for the five year olds. The Delis family from Doreen's Pizza in Dyer will be here to help make pizza on Wednesday, April 27. Mrs. Domasica's class will celebrate everyone's birthday with one big party on Thursday, April 28.

May is just around the corner, which means that the 2010-11 school year is quickly coming to an end. There is still a lot to do and fun things planned for next month. Take a walk down our hallway and enjoy the spring scenes that have been created by our talented students.



Friends Better Together

The next meeting is scheduled for

Friday, April 29
5:30 p.m.
Room 209

We will be sharing
pizza,
laughter,
and some game playing.

We will be setting a calendar of events for spring and summer. Bring your calendars and ideas; many ideas have been suggested for spring and summer weather events. We will set these ideas to a Master Calendar, then post to a central place in WPC for reference.

If you have questions, please contact Jim Lamott or Sally Saculla.

CPR Training
for
children and adults
will be held here at Westminster

Monday, May 9
7 - 9 p.m.

Trainers from Community Hospital will be hosting this free event. A certificate will be given at the completion of the course. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 838-3131.

WPC Rummage Sale dates are set!

It's that time again!
Begin saving items for our annual

June Rummage Sale!

Collection and sort dates:
Monday, June 13 - Wednesday, June 15

Sale dates
June 14 and 15

WE NEED YOU
(and your sense of humor to make it fun!)

We also want your clean, gently used clothing, furniture, sporting goods and household items, so start cleaning out cabinets, closets and drawers. Please call the church if you'd like to be part of the planning team or if you have a truck and are willing to pick up furniture.

This is an important mission project.
Let's try to top \$6,000 this year!

Mission News!

Hope comes to Sojourner Truth House in Gary!

The Mission Team voted to send \$1,000 to Sojourner Truth House (STH) in support of the Medical Fund.

Women experiencing violence at home often have no way to pay for medical needs. Sojourner Truth House advocates for homeless and at-risk women and their children wishing to improve their quality of life. STH operates as a day shelter with effective training in life skills. Please continue to pray for these women and children who have come from dangerous situations.

Plus-sized casual and work clothing is needed and may be brought to Room 106a at WPC.



Youth Group Scoop

“We’re putting the team back together and taking it on the road!”

Hey all volleyball fans! Did you think we were done for the year?

Think again! Coach Dorn has discovered a charity volleyball tournament on April 30 on the Southwest Side of Chicago. There are several levels of play, so we can enter more than one team.

Anyone interested in taking part, whether you played on the CYVL teams in the past or are brand new to the game, is welcome. Contact Dan for more details.

Confirmation Sunday is May 1.

Sixteen of our youth will be accepted into full membership in our church at both services. Be sure to be there to welcome them into the Westminster community of believers.

The theme for ***Senior Sunday 2011*** is ***Kaleidoscope - Memories and Dreams***. The next formal meeting is **Sunday, May 1, at 6 p.m.** All seniors are welcome to participate in any way, from giving a message and leading a prayer to designing the bulletin cover or playing music. Contact Dan, Sally or Darlene with any questions or ideas.

Our Spring Fundraiser has begun! You can buy coupons for **Zandstra’s Greenhouse** every Sunday in Fellowship hall between worship services and after 10:30 worship. Coupons are worth \$13. You can get them during the week in the front office or the youth office.

“Impact - Issues that Matter” continues every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in Room 401 for high school and college age youth. It’s an hour of snacks, coffee and discussion with leadership drawn from our congregation. Dale Fieldhouse moderates. Here’s a look at what’s coming up:

May 1 - 29 - ***The Ethics of Dating*** - A discussion about the issues of dating, purity and sexuality in Christian context. Leaders: Mike and Mary Pawlicki.

Our regular weekly schedule of discipleship and fellowship continues:

Sunday Night Cafè

Bible study and discussion meets **Sundays from 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

Pizza with a Purpose

continues to explore the Old Testament through the “Good God Theatre” video series **each week on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. followed by open Gym until 7 p.m.**



**Need to get a hold of
of
Dan LeMonnier
when he isn't
around WPC?
You can e-mail him
at wpcyouth@aol.com**

**You can also call or
text him at
313-2371.**

Gals to Grandma's Sunday Afternoon Tea delighted all who attended

Did you see the handsome men wearing black ties? They were waiting on us hand and foot during the Gals to Grandmas Sunday Afternoon Tea on Sunday, April 10. For those who missed, here's a description of the afternoon.

Upon entering Fellowship Hall one couldn't help but feel pampered and taken back to slower afternoons when ladies gathered in the parlor. Our tables were festively decorated with teapots bursting with purple gerbera daisies and plates of delicately made candy flowers. Finding a seat was such fun. All ages of ladies sat together. Our youngest three to eight year olds decorated bonnets with spring posies and introduced themselves to Jim Severa, our Master of Ceremonies.

Talented pianist, Stephan Zajac, charmed us with lovely melodies as we sipped our tea and feasted on sweet and savory morsels. My favorite was (moonlight) Clair de Lune! Platters of fruit, croissants, of course, scones and chocolate éclairs drew us to the silver candlesticks on the buffet table. Not a single lady licked her fingers that I can report, though there were many trips from buffet to table with second helpings after everyone was served. Perfect manners were precedent, making sure the lovely skirts and dresses were not soiled!

Alexa Johnson sang about being smitten by *Taylor the Latte Boy* and a lovely piece from *Phantom of the Opera*. Our mission for the day was to have tea. In WPC fashion, bringing into focus the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, as our beneficiary. Gift baskets were delivered to winners and everyone applauded the afternoon! Special thanks to Tiffany Perez, Katie Boyle, Sara Sweeney, Annalisa Blue and Debbie Blue and all who made it an especially memorable day!

It's not too late to join Westminster's Relay for Life Team, *Walk the Park to Care!* Here's how to participate! Cut and paste the following site into your browser: www.relayforlife.org/munsterin. Scroll down the list to our team's name *Walk the Park to Care*. Click on join the team or donate to the team.



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Westminster is a community
where people of all ages
are transformed by God's love
to serve and grow
as disciples of Jesus.

**News for members and friends
of Westminster Presbyterian Church**