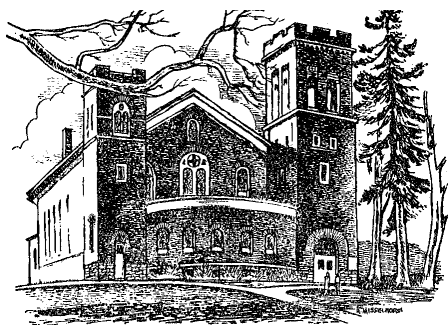




Westminster Window

Knowing Christ Building Believers Serving All

Laura Schulte, Secretary

(618) 443-2025 Email: officewpcsparta@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to Noon

TAKE NOTE!

We return to our regular worship time of 10:30-11:30 this Sunday, August 2

We are planning a Worship in the Park service for Sept. 20. If you would like to help, please see Laura or Clint.

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Laura Schulte, Editor

August 2026

Every once in a while, congregants will give me input on the hymns that I have chosen for worship. I appreciate the feedback, whether it is positive or negative (although I obviously prefer the positive!). But have you ever wondered how I go about picking the hymns? If not, this article is for you!

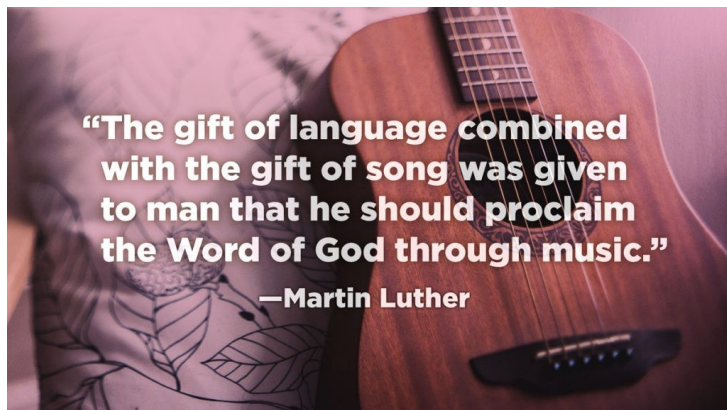
Every week, I receive the liturgy from whoever is filling the pulpit. When it comes time to pick the music, I go online and Google "hymns to accompany...plus the scripture for the week." Several websites are dedicated to helping with this specific task. I feel it is important to try to match the songs with the specific message that is provided each week, in an effort to enhance the worship experience. Singing words that line up with the Scripture reading helps the message sink deeper into our hearts, and can really enhance our worship service.

I look at the words and the tune, and if it is not a familiar one, I talk to Debbie to see if she thinks it is one that we can pick up easily, or I look it up online. Every once in a while the songs don't work well, and I apologize for my failures. But if you don't try new things, you will never know if they are worth learning. I feel it is very

important to expand the songs we sing in worship, so I am always willing to look at new songs and try to incorporate them. Introducing fresh hymns helps our community to grow in its praise and keeps our services from feeling stale.

We obviously have our very favorite hymns we would love to sing quite frequently, but with so many choices in our hymnal, it would be a shame to not choose a wider variety. There is an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of when we last sang each hymn, and I try to not repeat songs more than every 10 months to a year. This gives us opportunities to expand our song repertoire, plus we won't get tired of singing the same thing over and over.

A lot of effort is put into the hymn choices each week, and I hope that overall you find that they support each week's service. If you have hymn suggestions, or just have any questions, I encourage you to come and talk to me in person. I am always open to hearing what you have to say. Now let's all make a joyful noise together!



Shout to the Lord!



This month we are sending a “shout out” to our PNC who have been diligently seeking a new pastor for Westminster. Please encourage and support this team in your prayers: Laura Schulte, Charlie Lehman, Connie Ruppert, Allison Rheinecker and Tracy Spirk. There are limited candidates and it is a difficult task to find the candidate who “fits” our needs and will lead us in the mission of our church.

“Well done, good and faithful servant...” Mathew 25: 23

S'More Time with God, was held on Monday, July 6 for children ages 4-grade 6 from 10-noon. 12 youth, 7 youth helpers and 4 adults enjoyed the morning together. The focus was on Love God-Love Your Neighbor.

Blessing of the Backpacks is scheduled for August 9 during Worship. All students and teachers remember to bring your backpack/totes for a blessing.

Rally Day schedule (September 13):

- 9:15-9:45 a.m.-Faith Formation Classes grades 5-adult meet
- 9:45-10:15 a.m.—Breakfast for **ALL** in Fellowship Hall
- 10:30-11:30 Worship (nursery-grade 4 leave during a part of Worship for Faith Formation)

Calvin's Kids (age 4-grade 6) will resume on Wednesday, September 16 from 5-6:30 p.m. Watch for registration forms. If you are willing to volunteer to teach, cook or assist in any way contact the CE Office. A dessert sign-up sheet and volunteer sign-up sheet will be available in the Education wing on the K-grade 4 classroom door.

Future events:

- September 20-Worship in the Park Mark you calendar!

Treasurer's Report



For the Month Ending June 30, 2026

	<u>Actual</u>
<u>Total General Fund Receipts</u>	\$97,030.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	\$89,473.00
<u>Net Income Gain/(Loss)</u>	\$7,557.00

Acolyte Schedule

Aug. 2—Addie & Breckon Lauer	Sept. 6 (Labor Day Wknd)—Ryker Adams & Maddux Steely
Aug. 9—Saylor & Wade Watson	Sept. 13—Hadley & Lennon McMaster
Aug. 16—Ryker Adams & Maddux Steely	Sept. 20— Worship in the Park
Aug. 23—Emersyn McDougal & Hadley Hanna	Sept. 27—Jackson Hanna & Maddux Steely
Aug. 30—Jeremiah & Caleb Spirk	

August Birthdays

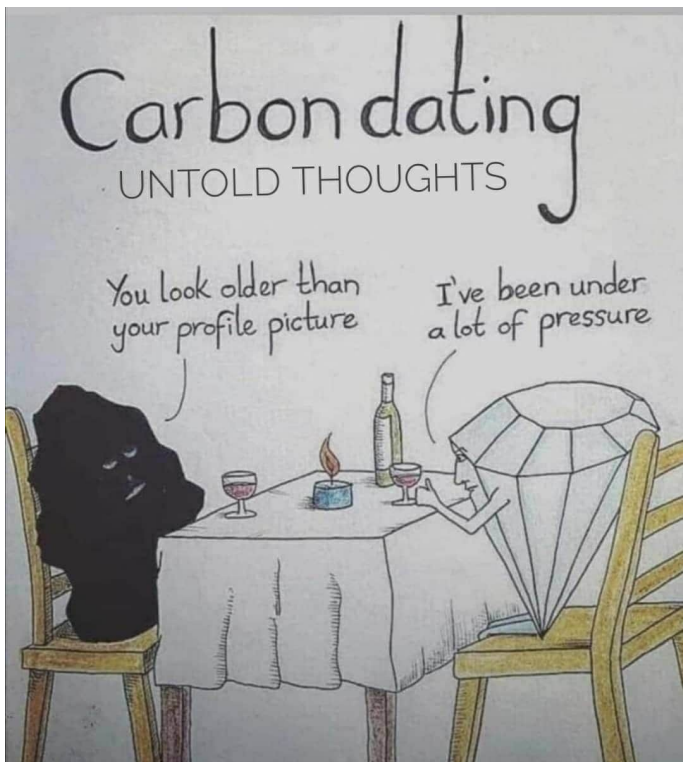
August 1—Kay Hapke, Kaye Joiner
August 2—Konnie Pirtle
August 3—Emma Adams, Justin Kiefer
August 4—Logan Sternberg
August 5—Vivian Ivancic
August 6—Wes Sroka
August 7—Emersyn McDougal
August 8—Ryan Peck, Luke Sroka, Faith Sroka, David Sternberg
August 9—Martha Barber
August 12—Mary Sternberg
August 13—Gavin Peck
August 15—John Feld
August 18—Sydney Rheinecker
August 19—Jaimie Smith
August 21—Robin McMurtry
August 22—Charlie Lehman, Amber Rucks
August 24—Susan Gasser
August 28—Wayne Laramore
August 29—Mary Niemeyer
August 31—Tricia Funston



August Anniversaries

August 6—Mason & Katie Blank, Jim & Stacy Morgan
August 7—Merle & Jeanne Schmierbach
August 19—Kaye & Bud Joiner
August 22—Julian & Cody Mahan
August 24—Laura & Larry Schulte
August 25—Bob & Martha Misselhorn

Comedy Corner



Thank You...

We would like to send out a huge “THANK YOU!!” to everyone who showed up to help us with our last kids’ event, “S’More Time with God.” Everyone who was there had a great time! A special “Thank you” to Anne and Kay for all of the work they put into coming up with lessons and activities—you are such a blessing to the youth in this church! Also, thank you to Anne, Kay and Laura for making homemade marshmallow ice cream to use in the frozen S’More treat that the kids enjoyed very much, and to Kim Short for showing up to supervise in the kitchen! The entire morning ran smoothly and the kids seemed to truly enjoy the day.

SING TO THE LORD!

Our Church Choir needs new voices, and we hope you will prayerfully consider joining us! Our first practice will be on August 19 at 6:00 p.m. “Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!”

Psalm 95:1

Our family time focus this year is on memorizing scripture. This month’s memory verse is...

August Memory Verse:

“If you love me, keep my commands.”

John 14:15

Notes from Session

- On Sept 20th we will have Worship in the Park. This will be just like last year with a potluck meal following the service. The fellowship committee will provide the meat, drinks and paper products.
- August schedule for preachers: Clint will be with us for the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th with Vallerie with us on the 23rd.
- At the end of March 2027 we will have paid back to the trust the amount that we had borrowed.

If you are chairperson of any committee, please remember to submit minutes by the second Tuesday of the month to Doris Lehman or the office. Thank you!

Doris Lehman—Clerk of Session

Out and About at Westminster



Left: A big "Thank you!" to Konnie Pirtle for sharing his talents with us on July 5, when he sang "God Bless the USA."

Below: Everyone who attended S'More Time with God on July 6 had a great time. I think the youth helpers had even more fun than the younger kids!



Below: Thank you so much to the youth who showed up to help unload a trailer full of food from Centralia. Our more seasoned helpers truly appreciated the amazing assistance that they provided!



August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>Clint Borcky preaching Communion</i>	3 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1 pm Quilting</i>	4 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	5	6 10-12 <i>Food Pantry 6 pm Deacons</i>	7	1 / 8
9 <i>Clint Borcky preaching</i>	10 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1 pm Quilting</i>	11 10-12 <i>Food Pantry 5 pm Session</i>	12 <i>7 pm Trustees</i>	13 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	14	15
16 <i>Clint Borcky preaching</i>	17 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1 pm Quilting</i>	18 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	19 <i>6 pm Choir Practice</i>	20 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	21	22
23 <i>Vallerie King preaching</i>	24 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1 pm Quilting</i>	25 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	26 <i>6 pm Choir Practice</i>	27 10-12 <i>Food Pantry</i>	28	29
30 <i>Clint Borcky preaching Fellowship Hall reserved for b'day party</i>	31 <i>9 am Prayer Circle 1 pm Quilting</i>					