



July 30, 2020

Presbytery News

Wymore Church receives Grant for “Drive-in” Worship



congregations missed the most.

As with all the congregations in Presbytery during COVID restrictions, the three churches of Trinity Parish (Mission Creek, Steele City, and Wymore) had to close their doors. That left a painful hole in the spiritual lives of members. Live streaming worship was not going to be an effective option since most of the members did not have internet access. Face-to-face presence was what the

So the Parish came up with an alternative: have worship in the parking lot.

With permission from residents near the church, they set up a loudspeaker system to project across the front lawn of the Wymore church. Folks from all three churches began weekly “drive-in” worship, including special recognitions for Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, and High School Graduations. The congregants were thrilled with the opportunities to worship again... even if through windshields.

Unfortunately, not all were able to hear well.

Improvements brought the addition of short-range FM radio transmission. That made all the difference. Worshippers were able to adjust the volume on their vehicle radios as they participated in behind-the-wheel worship.



Homestead Presbytery provided a grant to cover the cost of an FM transmitter and connecting equipment in the amount of

\$368. The grant came from the Program-Grant Committee through the Congregational and Leadership Development (CLD) M&M. Church Technology Upgrade Grants such as that received by Wymore are still available for churches discovering new ways to minister despite current health concerns. Applications are on the Presbytery [website](#).



The congregations of Trinity Parish are thankful for Presbytery's assistance in providing heart-warming (yet social-distanced) worship opportunities until they are able to join unencumbered in their sanctuaries.

For more information about Homestead Presbytery's Church Technology Upgrade Grants, contact Jim McNeal, Chair, Program-Grant

Committee, at 402-645-5016 or chapjim1955@hotmail.com.

IT'S TIME TO GET REGISTERED!

Make sure you get registered for the Presbytery meeting on June 15th. This will again, be a Stated Assembly by Zoom. The link and other meeting information will be e-mailed to you the week of the meeting.



Presbytery
ASSEMBLY

REGISTER NOW!

Get Your 2020-2021 Planning Calendars!



The Presbytery will be placing a bulk order for the new 2020-2021 Planning Calendars! Make sure to get your orders in by August 10th.

\$10/calendar for pickup at the Presbytery Office

\$11.50/calendar shipped to you

ORDER HERE!

Welcome Rev. Chris Peters to Homestead Presbytery!



Lincoln Westminster Presbyterian Church's Head of Staff-elect begins his pastoral duties on September 14th.

Rev. Chris Peters is a pastor who values gratitude to God, building relationships, and engaging our neighbors with a listening ear and extended hand. Chris has served PC(USA) churches professionally for nearly eighteen years.

He earned a B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of South Carolina – Columbia in 2004 and a M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA, in 2014. Chris is currently the (Generalist) Associate Pastor for Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairhope, AL, a “cultural hub” suburb of Mobile. His primary roles are in preaching and worship leadership, mission/outreach coordination, congregational care, and youth ministry. Chris has previously served faithful and vibrant congregations in Columbia, SC and Atlanta, GA. His call is lived out in a variety of settings – from pulpit, baptismal font and communion table, to hospital bedside and nursing home, to adult Sunday School classroom and youth conference, to community boards and service projects, to disaster-impacted cities in the U.S. and Presbyterian partner churches in Guatemala.

"With gratitude to God, I seek to serve with a sense of joy and empathy that invites others into the life of Christ and the just service of God in the world. I am excited about the many possibilities for ministry with Westminster and in the Lincoln community as Head of Staff, and I am inspired by the many gifts of the Westminster church family," -Rev. Peters.



WHEN: August 27, 2020 (10-11:30am CST, break for lunch, 12:30-2pm CST)

WHERE: Zoom! Of course.

This event is sponsored by the Faith, Education and Leadership Development Committee (FELD). Steve Keizer leads the Ministry Relations efforts for the Presbyterian Foundation. He helps congregations create a culture of generosity in the church, offering seminars and workshops, developing gifts and fundraising plans for ministries, and providing coaching to finance, stewardship, and endowment committees.

FELD believes that a culture of generosity is especially important due to the

complicating factors of the pandemic. Join the Zoom call and discover a new approach to faithful giving in the church!

The cost for this event is FREE! However, we do need you to register so that we can send you the Zoom link.

Questions? Please contact Becky Balestri at becky@opsf-omaha.org or 402-709-0568.

**REGISTER
HERE**

New Worshiping/Church Vitality Committee

A series of articles on the 7 Marks of a Vital Congregation.

The Second Mark of the seven marks of a vital congregation is: "Intentional Authentic Evangelism vs. "Jesus Freaks," "Christian Hypocrisy", or a committee.

2 Cor. 4:7 says: "We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to Christ." This is wonderful news that is intentionally and authentically shared from one's own heart and life. It is more than mere ethics or morals – though important. Yet, the driving impulse is the intentionality of *wanting* to share this news! It is with people we love and with whom we are related as friends, church family or as a neighbor. Even when masked by the protection of a face mask, the intentionality comes through the authentic excitement of one's eyes and smile that can still be seen through the mask. What good news do we want to share right now?

- The birth of a new baby
- A graduation
- A new job or promotion
- An anniversary or whatever else is such a joyful news, it has to be shared!

This is authentic and intentional through one's story. How has Jesus been real in your life and my life? That is a story that can be told with intentional heart. Our lives exude that excitement that we want others to know.

Resources that help in that story telling can bolster that witness: for further study, look at John 4:1-41; 2 Cor. 4:7; Gal. 2:19b-20; Mark 4:1-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; Matthew 4: 19-20; Psalm 96; John 3:11-21; Romans 10:1-17.

Objectives:

The New Worshiping/Church Vitality Committee would like the churches of the presbytery to look at the following objectives and see how they could be incorporated into each church's story:

- To recognize that all disciples are called to Evangelism, not just committees and leaders; it is an authentic part of their life.
- To empower and equip all people to enter relationships unashamed and unafraid to share the Good News.

- The church recognizes that evangelism should be need-based (meets the needs of the un-churched/de-churched)
- The church develops practices for people to share their story and give witness to Good News in their lives.

Potential Outcomes

What might the outcomes of church vitality be for you and your congregation? It may be something like what is listed below or it may be an idea that is uniquely that of your congregation. This list to stir the imagination and think and pray what God is calling the church authentically do with energetic intentionality.

- Hospitality is not viewed as a replacement or a substitute of evangelism, but maybe an outgrowth.
- Evangelism is viewed as a way of life, not as a program or a function of the church.
- The mission of the church focuses on sharing the Good News.
- The people of God meld and claim God's story as their story, living unafraid to share it.
- The church develops authentic relationships founded in Christ. People see Christ through the church and their relationships.

Reflection Questions:

Here are some questions for the people and families to share and prayerfully consider:

- When did the news become Good News in your life?
- Does your church authentically allow individuals to come as they are with their particular stories and hear the Good News? Why or why not?
- In your church, how do people share their stories of faith? How is their story connected to the God story of redeeming love?
- How is your congregation equipped, empowered, and encouraged to intentionally share the Good News in daily life?
- Do you have an evangelism committee? If so, what are they tasked to do? How do you practice sharing the Good News vs. growing membership?
- What keeps us from sharing the Good News in our daily relationships?
- Can we call it "Good News" if we do not share it in our authentic relationships?
- Name a time when sharing the Good News was good for someone who needed to hear it.

Intentional authentic evangelism is the real story of Christ's redeeming love in each person who has the joy to share it with others. Prayerfully see what God's joyful Good News is going to impress on you and your congregation in Jesus' name.

Rev. Dr. John J, Duling, HR Member of NWCVC

Homestead Church Technology Upgrade Grant

Homestead Presbytery, through the Program and Grants Committee, is offering Technology Upgrade Grants of up to \$1000 to congregations who demonstrate need and vision. During this time of the coronavirus pandemic we seek to assist and support those congregations who would like to upgrade their technology to facilitate new models and platforms for worship

and congregational gatherings.

Below you will find two versions of the Grant application. One is a fillable PDF form that you can download and just type in your responses and e-mail back the form; the second form is a word document if you prefer to print and hand write your application.

[Fillable PDF Grant Application](#)

[Word Doc Grant Application](#)

Weekly Homestead Zoom Forum



Click the video above to watch yesterday's Zoom forum. They happen weekly on Wednesday's at 1pm. Click the link below to register. You will receive a confirmation e-mail from Zoom with the link to connect to the meeting.

[Register now!](#)

Weekly Prayer Requests

Auburn

We give thanks that our congregation continues to find ways to keep its bonds strong - members checking on each other; deacons delivering groceries to those who need to stay in their homes; calls, cards, and social media connections are keeping us connected. We are also thankful for our Presbytery's Disaster Relief team - it means so much to receive their check-in calls. Our prayer request is that God will lead us toward new and creative pathways to serve during these hard days. Thanks to the entire Presbytery for their care and support.

Homestead Presbytery

840 S. 17th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:30pm

Office: 402.474.0612

Interim EP: 803.556.3355

Stated Clerk: 402.217.3684

