

WEEKLY NEWS – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020

PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING WORSHIP SERVICES.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Scripture: Rev. 1:4-8

Sermon: “The Once and Future Church”

Pastor Hans Poetschner (see message from Pastor Hans below)

Also below, please see this week’s scripture and Call to Worship

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Deacon’s Thanksgiving food basket project. Because of your generous donations 31 families will have all of the food they need to prepare a Thanksgiving meal. The food baskets are being delivered this Saturday to Northeast Community Fund and will be distributed to families in our area.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Our time to deliver Meals On Wheels has come again. We are responsible for the week of December, Monday 14 through Friday the 18th. I have the routes available, so if you are able to help please let me know at 217-429-0228. Thank you, Nancy Minks

VESPERS ANNOUNCEMENT

This year’s Vespers will be a virtual concert, an on-line event featuring the best moments from the last five years of television broadcasts. Additionally, this year’s students have put together ‘virtual choir’ selections to add to the pre-recorded program. It is their way of saying, “We are still here and we look forward to the day when we can share our music face to face.”

The concert information is:

Vespers at Millikin will be available for livestream viewing:

Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

No ticket is required.

To attend the concert go to: <https://millikin.edu/> Or
<https://www.facebook.com/MillikinUniversity/> Or
<https://www.facebook.com/MillikinUniversity/>

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR HANS

Dearly beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Spirit of the Living God has led me, and guided the Session of your church that I shall be taking on the role of Interim Pastor at the Westminster Presbyterian church. My name is Johannes Poetschner (and it is not pronounced the way you think), but I go by

Pastor Hans or Hans. I was born and raised in Vienna, Austria, as a Lutheran in a catholic country, and received a masters of philosophy and a masters of protestant theology from the University of Vienna. The World Council of Churches gave me a yearlong scholarship to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, where I discovered my love for Pastoral Care and my wife. She converted me to Presbyterianism, and I have somehow been involved in presbyterian ministries ever since. Because of the rapid decline of the churches in Europe I also got into studying Church redevelopment which is my second specialty.

I come to Westminster with my very personal mission statement leading me: I want to see the church that I serve grow and prosper. I want to see the Church of Jesus Christ in general grow and prosper. And as churches that grow and prosper tend to be in towns that grow and prosper I want to see the community as a whole grow and prosper. Pending the decision of the Session, I hope to start a process of change that will lead the church into a bright future. But I do not want you to harbor any illusions: I cannot do this by myself. I can only show the way, but we have to make the journey into tomorrow together. Expect to be asked to give of your time, of your resources, of your giftedness, of yourself.

Let us never forget that whatever we do we do it in the name of Jesus Christ, and for the higher glory of God. May indeed the Spirit of the Living God guide us at all times towards the kingdom of God and the greater love of Jesus Christ. In His name. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Serve him with joy, his praises tell,
come now before him and rejoice!

Know that the LORD is God indeed;
he formed us all without our aid.
We are the flock he surely feeds,
the sheep who by his hand were made.

O enter then his gates with joy,
within his courts his praise proclaim!
Let thankful songs your tongues employ.
O bless and magnify his name!

Because the LORD our God is good,
his mercy is forever sure.
His faithfulness at all times stood
and shall from age to age endure.

REVELATION 1:4-8

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.