

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



July 31, 2022

“Sunday School Stories Grown Up: Esther”

Prelude

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Call to Worship (Psalm 124, adapted) Deacon Carolyn Harp

One: If it had not been for God, who was on our side, we would have fallen prey to those who want to harm us.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

One: If it had not been for God we would have been swept away by sadness and fear.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

One: God has broken the snare that took away our freedom.

All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. Blessed be God's holy name!

*Hymn #330 Our Help Is in the Name of God

*Call to Confession

Deacon Carolyn Harp

*Time of Silent Confession

*Unison Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We hear the story of faithfulness to you



Our guest preacher, Rev. Lauren Peters, earned her Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary and is an ordained PC(USA) minister. She is the owner and founder of Feasting Table LLC, a leader / clergy coaching and ministry consulting business. Lauren is a member of the International Coaching Federation and is a member of Homestead Presbytery.

(Presbyterian Fun Fact: Pastors are not members of the ministries or congregations in which they worship or serve, but instead they are members of the Presbytery - the regional body of churches and ministries.)

"We believe that our sins, or the ways we distance ourselves from God and neighbor, happen by what we do *and* by things we fail to do. For example, Presbyterians would affirm that our failure to act in ways that promote the well-being of our neighbor is a form of sin. Even in the public sphere, we are called as Christians to support policies that promote our neighbor's flourishing. Throughout this summer series, we are using this prayer of confession, with words that reflect the week's story changed weekly. This week, spend time considering things that have been "left undone" - on purpose or without intent - and how you might work for reconciliation or justice in that area." - Pastor Chris

alone, yet we place our hope in nations and rulers. We hear the story of your great reversal of the expected, yet we quietly wish you would keep the status quo when it is for our benefit. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways. With hope in Christ, we pray. Amen.

Response to the Confession

#466

***Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
Alleluia! (x1)***

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

...Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise**

#435 (verse 2)

***For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.***

***Passing of the Peace**

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Chat

Sarah Baltensperger

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture Esther 1:1, 2:5-8; 2:16-18; 3:1-6 O.T. pg. 444

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

"Sunday School Stories Grown Up: Esther"

Rev. Lauren Peters

*Hymn #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

*Affirmation of Faith

Deacon Carolyn Harp

We believe and teach that God is one in essence or nature, subsisting in himself, all sufficient in himself, invisible, incorporeal, immense, eternal, Creator of all things both visible and invisible, the greatest good, living, quickening and preserving all things, omnipotent and supremely wise, kind and merciful, just and true.

Moment of Gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Deacon Carolyn Harp

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Helvetic Confession
Fast Facts: 1) The word "Helvetic" means "Swiss." 2) Bullinger followed Reformer Ulrich Zwingli as the minister of the church in Zurich. 3) The other pastor was Frederick the Elector, who was cleared of charges at his heresy trial in 1566.

A note on language: At Westminster (and as a PCUSA church), we value using *expansive* language for God in our worship. That means we refer to God in ways that appreciate the diversity of images for God found in scripture, as opposed to only calling God "he." When using historical confessions, we may at times use original language due to the words of the original writer(s). Today, we hold in tension our theological and pastoral value for expansive language while using a 500-year-old confession that refers to God as "himself," alongside adjectives describing God's character.

Together We Serve

***Hymn #767**

"Benediction" (Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester), composed by Jonathan Reid

Thanks be to you, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you give to me, for all the pains and insults you bore for me.

O most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

- St. Richard (1197-1253)

Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Liturgist: Deacon Carolyn Harp

Interim Music Director: Ronnie Zanella

Organist: John Ross
Director of Children &

Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Erika Schafer, Dan Schafer, Sarah Baltensperger, Rob Baltensperger

Greeters: Karen Hoffman, Carolyn Harp, Kelly Braswell-Burbach

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Lauren Peters

Special Music: "Benediction" (Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester)
Composed by Jonathan Reid
Westminster Choir

Postlude

***Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.**

Portions of today's liturgy are adapted from: Long, Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2. Proper 21 Semicontinuous. 2015, Westminster John Knox Press

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is located off the entry foyer through the Sheridan Blvd./West-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the foyer, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and the sanctuary elevator exit. Look for the signs that read "Giving Basket."

Online: To give online, visit the following web address:
<https://westminsterlincoln.org/generosity-and-the-joy-of-giving/>

If you don't want to take your bulletin with you, please dispose of it in the recycling basket as you exit the sanctuary.



*“I am the vine,
you are the branches . . .”*

The week of July 31, 2022

*Westminster Presbyterian Church is an inclusive faith family, inspired by Jesus Christ,
to call, nurture, and empower disciples.*

Scripture and Sermon Discussion Canceled

This week’s sermon discussion time is canceled due to the changes in our worship plans that occurred late this past week. We hope you will join Pastor Chris next week in the Lounge at 10:50 AM to reflect on the amazing story of Ruth.

Mission/Outreach School Kits Project

Please help Mission/Outreach fill the giant crayon box on the table near the east entrance. A supply list and instructions are on the table. We will collect items until Sept. and then have fun putting the kits together.

Lohmen Lore

A scenic hike in the Lohmen, Germany countryside will take you to a large monument commemorating which of these creative artists?



- a) Richard Wagner, composer
- b) Berthold Brecht, playwright
- c) Thomas Mann, author

Last week’s answer: The broken souvenir from Westminster’s 1989 trip was a piece of the Berlin wall which came down during the visit—as witnessed by some of the travelers. Being broken is actually what made it so special!

Lunch Bunch will meet at Art & Soul, 5740 Hidcote Drive on Tuesday, August 2, at 11:30 AM. This is close to 56th and Pine Lake Road. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Name Tags

Name tags will be ordered next week, so drop off an order form at the receptionist desk, along with \$10, if you need one. Wearing your name tag helps all of us get to know each other.

Elevator Awaiting Repairs

We will continue the Live Streaming of the worship service in Fellowship Hall while the Sanctuary elevator is being repaired.

Star City Shores Pool Party | August 11, 6:30 to 8 PM

The all-church pool party at Star City Shores is coming up in August. Westminster will have the entire facility reserved just for us. Plan to come out to cool off with your friends.

Insteadium | August 20-21

If you missed Triennium this year, Calvin Crest has created an opportunity for high school students from our area to get together and connect at an overnight event they have dubbed Insteadium. It officially starts at 5 PM on Sat., Aug. 20 and ends at 11 AM on Sun., Aug. 21. Aug. 20 is also Family Fun Day, so the fun really starts at 10 AM. It is free if you are registered by Aug. 1, 2022. If you are interested in going, contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org so we can register as a group. More details at: <https://calvincrest.org/insteadium/>.

History Buffs: The B17 Bomber | August 20 | 9 AM

Used primarily in Europe during WWII, the b17 was known more famously as the Flying Fortress. Capable of flying long distances with a heavy payload, the b17 would forever change the face of warfare. The “Strategic Bombing” campaigns in which it was used represented a radical departure from more the traditional methods of waging war. The presentation given by Steve Larson is based upon the experiences of Lt. Wendell Larson; a 20-year-old navigator who flew 35 missions over Europe during the War. Feel welcome to bring a friend(s).



matt talbot
kitchen & outreach

Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach Family Service Opportunity | Sunday, September 4

Sign your family up to volunteer here:

<https://forms.gle/gqmdsmiWbdRqVJJW8>.

Questions? Contact Susie Hughes at skh@eskays.com.

CROP Walk | Sunday, October 9

Westminster will be participating in the 2022 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. Register to walk or to donate to our team. The link is in the eVine.

Save the Date: Westminster Special Events

Sunday, August 14

- Blessing of the Backpacks and Sunday Sundae Bar
- We will be blessing backpacks on August 14 during the service. If you are a student or educator of any kind, come receive your blessing for the coming year. Students of all ages are encouraged to bring their backpacks to receive blessings to begin the school year with the positive energy of prayers for their safety, health, happiness, and continued growth.
- To celebrate the beginning of the new academic year, we will be serving ice cream in the Garden Room after the service along with a whole array of your favorite sundae toppings.

Sunday Programming Resumes

- We will begin dismissing elementary age children to Faith Village on August 14 following the Children's Chat.

Sermon Set-up also resumes for youth.

Sunday, August 28: Presbyterians in the Park @ Antelope Park

- 10 AM: Worship at Bandshell
- 11:30 AM: Potluck Lunch at Auld Pavilion
- Note: There will be no worship at church; only at Antelope Park! We will update with information on livestreaming / virtual worship options that week as the date nears.
- Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach Family Service Opportunity.

Sunday, September 11: Kick-off Sunday

- 9:30 AM Worship
- 10:30 AM-12 PM – All-ages fun and food in the WPC parking lot (or inside as a rain-plan)
- Used Book Sale begins

Sunday, September 25: "2-Year Celebration"

- A morning of learning and connection opportunities with Dr. Martha Moore-Keish, J.B. Green Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. This event is in celebration of two years of Pastor Chris arriving at Westminster. Our speaker is a respected and relatable theologian in the PCUSA, as well as the Professor/Mentor Chris would have had join us for his Installation Service in 2020. Due to COVID-19, we were not able to have a guest preacher and lecturer that day.
- Schedule Details Forthcoming

A clean-up team gathered last week to begin the **“BIG CLEAN OF WESTMINSTER.”**

- Our church has collected way too many treasures which have made Westminster look cluttered and difficult to keep clean.
- The team sorted items into several categories. Broken items were taken to the trash bin. Items that had strayed from their proper places were returned to where they belong (i.e., kitchen things to the kitchen). Some items we were not sure about, were outdated, or needed to be re-homed. Please take a moment to view these items in Cole Hall.
- If you find an item that belongs to you or you have some attachment to, please take it.
- All remaining/unclaimed items will be removed by August 5.
- The clean-up team will continue sorting, so check Cole Hall often.

Week Beginning July 31

<p><u>Sun. (31)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:30 AM Nursery 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Tues. (2)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Ed, Lounge 6 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wed. (3)</u> 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Hearts & Hands</p> <p><u>Sat. (6)</u> 11 AM Soccer Practice, Gym</p> <p><u>Sun. (7)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:30 AM Nursery 10:50 AM <i>Scripture and Sermon</i> Discussion, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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Week 30 Giving	\$9,131
YTD Giving	\$348,851
Weekly Budget	\$10,970
YTD Budget	\$329,109