

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



**October 30, 2022**  
**Commitment Sunday**

**Prelude**

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"  
arr. Warren Barker

**Welcome**

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Mission Moment: Bible in a Year**

Marijane England

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 119:172-175)** Deacon Marybell Avery

One: My tongue will sing of your promises, O God;

***All: for all your commandments are righteous!***

One: I long for your salvation, O Lord;

***All: For your law is our delight!***

One: Let my life be praise to you;

***All: Let your ordinances be my sure help!***

**\*Hymn #275**

***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God***

**\*Call to Confession**

Deacon Marybell Avery

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

***Oh Lord, the economy of your love is bountiful and generous, expanding goodness and extending forgiveness beyond our imagination. But the economy of our lives is often tight-fisted. We invest where we expect a return. We are merciful where it yields gain. We hold grudges with interest. Forgive all our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Help us be the generous people you would have us be. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.***

**Response to the Confession**

#444 (v 1,4)

*“Forgive our sins as we forgive,”  
you taught us, Lord, to pray,  
But you alone can grant us grace  
to live the words we say.*

*Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls  
and bid resentment cease.  
Then, by your mercy reconciled,  
our lives will spread your peace.*

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Deacon Marybell Avery

...Believe and share the good news!  
*In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!*

**\*Response of Praise**

#581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Deacon Marybell Avery

*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**

Jaime Hemmerling

**Special Music** "In Paths of Truth and Grace" by Randall Standridge

**Prayer for Illumination**

Rev. Kara Hillhouse

**Scripture**

New Testament 2 Corinthians 9:11 N.T. pg. 184  
Gospel Reading Matthew 20:1-16 N.T. pg. 21

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

**Sermon**

“Absurd Generosity”

Rev. Kara Hillhouse

**\*Hymn #708**

**We Give Thee but Thine Own**

**\*Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)**

***I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.***

**Special Music**

"Into Heaven's Hands" by David Shaffer

**Prayers of the People**

**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.***

**Commitment of Offerings for the Coming Year**

Litany of Dedication

Elder Ray Stevens

*The Creator of all life and love  
has given our earth bountiful blessings.*

**God created humanity to share in the wonder and joy of these blessings.**

*All thanks be to God, Giver and Receiver of all that is good.*

**We return to God portions of what God has given us: our time, the fruits of our labors, our commitment.**

*May the giving from the fullness of our lives be acceptable in God's sight.*

**May the gifts we bring show that God's rule is at hand—both now and to come.**

*We dedicate our offerings toward the ministry God has given us.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!**

**Commitment Prayer**

Rev. Kara Hillhouse

**\*Hymn #697**

**Take My Life**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Kara Hillhouse

**Postlude**

"To a New Journey" by Naoya Wada

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

We welcome **Rev. Kara Hillhouse** as our guest preacher this morning.

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."



**For online giving,** scan the QR code.

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

**Ministers:** The whole congregation

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

**Liturgist:** Deacon Marybell Avery

**Music Director:** Ronnie Zanella

**Organist:** John Ross

**Director of Children & Youth:** Trish Souliere

**Ushers:** Dan & Erika Schafer Family

**Greeters:** Joyce Douglas, Josh Whitfield

**Guest Musicians:** Union College Wind Symphony, directed by Ramón Araújo



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

**The week of Oct. 30, 2022**

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

### **Commitment Sunday**

You will have an opportunity during worship today to bring your pledge form to the front. If you already submitted yours or are still considering it, there are some forms in the pews you can fill out to indicate this, and then bring forward. Thank you for helping to lay a strong foundation for Westminster’s future!

**Westminster extends our sympathy** to Gwen Thorpe and family following the death of her father, Robert (Bob) Johnson on October 22.

### **The Reformation in Scripture | Today | 10:45 AM**

Pastor Ellen Davis will lead the study centered around “The Reformation in Scripture.” The class will meet in the parlor.

10/30 Sola Christus – Christ: Our Only Mediator – 2 Cor. 5:11-21

Soli Deo Gloria – Glorifying God: Our Only Ambition – Rom. 15:1-13

### **Special Guest Musical Ensemble**

Westminster is excited to welcome the Union College wind ensemble led by Director Ramon Araujo in worship today!

### **Caramel Apple Bar | Today | 10:30 AM Garden Room**

The Children & Youth and Church Life Committees invite you to celebrate fall with us by enjoying a Caramel Apple Bar in the Garden Room after the service today. Our topping experts will be back, with a carefully curated selection of toppings to add to sliced apples, warm caramel, and hot fudge.

### **Staying Green & Clean Up of Coffee Cups**

We need several people to help wash coffee cups on Sunday mornings. Could you do this one Sunday a month?

## **Youth Group: Murder Mystery | Today | 4 – 8 PM**

This year, the monsters of the International Monster Association will gather on Mount Immortality for the annual Monster Summit. This secret meeting will be held in the Cave of Misfortune, next to the Glop Lagoon. The monsters will discuss the past year's success as well as plans for haunts, terrors, and scares for the upcoming year. Grimoth Jones is rumored to be making an important announcement this year and will also acknowledge the members who are far exceeding what it means to be a monster. This is your official summons.



## **November History Buffs | Nov. 5**

Steve Hughes is presenting the history of the Model T auto On Saturday, November 5, at 9 AM. How it came into being, how it developed through the years, and some interesting and surprising facts about how the business evolved through those years as

well. We will also talk about some common beliefs. For example: Were Model Ts really all black? We will meet in the Lounge, and this will be the last History Buffs presentation of 2022.

## **Nebraska Brass Concert at WPC | Nov. 6 | 3 PM**

The Nebraska Brass Concert titled American Salute: Music of American Composers on Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3 pm in the sanctuary. Tickets are available at the door or call 402-477-7899 for advanced sales.

Adults: \$18 Seniors (65+): \$15 Students & Children: Free



**matt talbot**  
kitchen & outreach

## **Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach Family Service Opportunity**

Are you are looking for an opportunity for your family to serve? Serving at Matt Talbot is simple – arrive at 5 PM to learn the ropes of setting out food and serving, work as a team to serve from 5:30 until 6:30, and then help with basic clean-up before wrapping up around 6:45 PM. This is a great opportunity for a family or two households to partner together to follow the call of Jesus to “love our neighbor.”

Sign up your family to volunteer here:

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

Questions? Contact Susie Hughes at [skh@eskays.com](mailto:skh@eskays.com).

## **Lessons and Carols | Dec. 18**

All Westminster children and youth are invited to participate in the children and youth led *Lessons & Carols* service on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9:30 AM. The *Lessons & Carols* service tells the story of God's plan for God's people, begun so long ago. It is a beautiful story told in narration and song. Participants will take part in two, 1-hour rehearsals after the service; the first will be Sunday, Nov. 13 and the second will be Sunday, Dec. 4. If your child is interested in taking part in leading this service, please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/U1dWo4xgBwFn9ytn7>.

We will do our best to accommodate requests. If you have any questions, contact Trish at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org).

## **Join Others in Reading the Bible in a Year**

Is there a book that you've heard selections from but haven't read from cover to cover? Is there a book that you read once but would like to read again for a deeper look? This is your opportunity. Join with fellow Westminster-ites in small groups to read the Bible in the year 2023.

With Pastor Chris' guidance an NRSV Study Bible has been selected that is divided into daily readings starting with Genesis on January 1 and ending with Revelations on December 31. This is not a daily reading list. In this study Bible, there are directed readings with suggestions to help you meditate, contemplate, and pray.

From now through early December there will be sign-up sheets in the Garden Room. We are asking people to sign up and indicate if you are interested in being a group leader, a group member, or will be studying as an individual or family. When you sign up, indicate if you would like to purchase the book with a group from church or on your own. The selected Bible is available on Amazon, but the church might be able to get a lower price if enough copies are purchased.

Marijane England will be the facilitator and serve as a resource for group leaders. Check the Garden Room on Sundays or contact Marijane England at [marijane.England@gmail.com](mailto:marijane.England@gmail.com) or contact the Church office.

## **Daylight Savings Time Ends**

Remember to turn your clocks back an hour on Saturday night, Nov. 5, so you arrive at church at the correct time on Sunday morning.

**Advent Workshop | Dec. 4 | 10:30 AM-11:30 AM**

**Christmas is Coming!**

It’s a little scary to think about it being just around the corner– but it also brings wonderful events (besides the birth of Christ). We invite you to dive into the holiday season with the Advent Workshop. We will gather with the anticipation of great joy on the second Sunday of Advent, immediately after church to renew friendships, participate in the chili cook-off and compete for the coveted Silver Ladle Award, and enjoy cookies and fellowship at the children’s craft workshop.

We are still in the planning phases but will have more details in the eVine. Sign up to staff the craft tables or to help with setup or cleanup online <https://forms.gle/cVPa4psDS5xG4NQO9> or call the church office at 402-475-6702 and ask for Trish.

**Week Beginning October 30**

<p><b><u>Sun. (30)</u></b>  9:30 AM Sanctuary  Worship/Commitment Sunday  9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery  10:30 AM Caramel Apple Bar,  Garden Room  10:45 AM Reformation in Scripture,  Parlor  12 Noon Sudanese Worship  4 PM Youth Group Murder Mystery</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (31)</u></b>  7 PM Recovery Group, Lounge</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (Nov. 1)</u></b>  9:15 AM Staff Meeting  11:30 AM Lunch Bunch  5 PM Personnel, Zoom  5 PM Adult Ed, Lounge  6 PM Bldg. &amp; Grounds, Lounge  6 PM Welcoming Task Force, Parlor</p>	<p><b><u>Wed. (2)</u></b>  10 AM Circle 3, Lounge  1:30 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library  5:30 PM Westminster LiNK, Cole  Hall  6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  6:30 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library</p> <p><b><u>Sat. (5)</u></b>  9 AM History Buffs, Lounge</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (6)</u></b>  9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship  9:40 AM Faith Village/Nursery  11 AM UNL Farmhouse Fraternity  Initiation  12 Noon Sudanese Worship  3 PM Nebraska Brass Concert  3:30 PM Serve at Matt Talbot</p>
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Week 43 Giving	\$6,670
YTD Giving	\$460,478
Weekly Budget	\$10,970
YTD Budget	\$471,719