

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



July 23, 2023

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/Proper 11**

**Rethinking Redemption: God's Answer to the Problem**

**Prelude** "Be Still My Soul" by Jean Sibelius, arr. by Rhett Barwell  
Elizabeth Hayes, harp

**Welcome** Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

## Special Announcement

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 139:1-3; 23-24, New Revised Standard Version)** Deacon Carolyn Harp

One: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

**All: You discern my thoughts from far away.**

One: You search out my path and my lying down,

**All: And are acquainted with all my ways.**

One: Search me, O God, and know my heart;

**All: Test me and know my thoughts.**

One: See if there is any wicked way in me,

**All: And lead me in the way everlasting.**

**\*Hymn #403** **Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**

**\*Call to Confession** Deacon Carolyn Harp

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

*Merciful 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 have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. 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, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.*

**\*Response to the Confession** **#471**

*O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.*

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness** Deacon Carolyn Harp

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

**\*Response of Praise** **#616**

*Our God is an awesome God  
who reigns from heaven above  
with wisdom, power, and love;  
our God is an awesome God!*

**\*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**

Ron Souliere

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Hebrew Scripture      Genesis 28:10-19a      O.T. pg. 25  
Gospel Lesson      Romans 8:12-25      N.T. pg. 158

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

**Sermon**

“God’s Answer to the Problem”  
Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Hymn #833**

**O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go**

**\*Affirmation of Faith (The Study Catechism:  
Confirmation Version)**

Deacon Carolyn Harp

*Question 62. What do you mean when you speak of "the forgiveness of sins"?*

***Because of Jesus Christ, God no longer holds my sins against me. Christ alone is my righteousness and my life. Grace alone is the basis on which God has forgiven me in him. Faith alone is the means by which I receive Christ into my heart, and with him the forgiveness that makes me whole.***

*Question 63. Does forgiveness mean that God excuses sin? No. God does not cease to be God. Although God is merciful to the sinner, God does not excuse the evil of sin. For to forgive is not to excuse.*

**Moment of Gratitude  
Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Special Music**

"Be Thou My Vision" trad. Irish, arr. Dan Forrest  
Elizabeth Hayes, *harp*; Ronnie Zanella, *violin*  
Octet from Westminster Choir

**Prayers of the People  
Lord's Prayer**

Deacon Carolyn Harp

***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.***

**\*Hymn #686**

**God of Our Life**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**Postlude**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"  
by Ralph Vaughan Williams

---

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

Today's words for worship come from scriptures of the day, the PCUSA Book of Common Worship, and the Confirmation Study Catechism.

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 red Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and near the top of the stairs in the sanctuary on the Garden Room / South side. Look for the red baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service.

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



**Ministers:** The whole congregation

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

**Liturgist:** Deacon Carolyn Harp

**Music Director:** Ronnie Zanella

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Ushers:** Becky Bockrath, Martha Kingsbury, Suzanne Bartlett

**Greeters:** Kelly Braswell-Burbach, Josh Whitfield

**Dishwashers:** Larry & Mary Peach

### **Communion Changes in August**

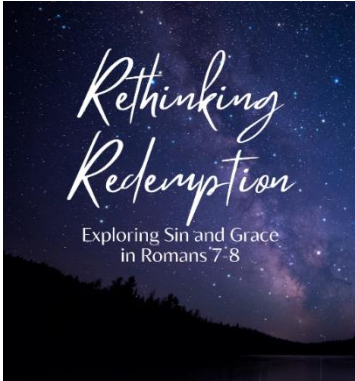
In August we will celebrate the Lord's Supper on the second Sunday, August 13. This change has been approved by Westminster's Session. Communion will resume our regular "first Sunday" schedule in September.



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

**The week of July 23, 2023**

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



“If you’ve ever stuck your foot in your mouth, disappointed a friend, or even hurt a loved one, you know the aftermath is not a fun feeling. The good news is that grace can help us move forward with hope! The Apostle Paul wrestled with similar feelings while exploring sin and redemption in his letter to the early Christian church in Rome. From Taylor Swift to the Beatles and other (nonmusical) examples, in July

we’ll be Rethinking Redemption with Paul as our guide. This summer, let’s dig into discipleship because worship is always in season!”

--Pastor Chris on our July worship series

### **Rethinking Redemption: Exploring Sin and Grace in Romans 7-8**

**July 23** Finding Answers to the Problem, Romans 8:12-25

**July 30** Christ’s Love is Always the Answer, Romans 8:26-39

### **Adult Education in July**

Elder Ernie Hines is teaching a series on the Psalms this month at 10:45 AM in the Lounge.

**July 23: Exploring the Psalms — Solomon and Exile, Books III & IV**

**July 30: Exploring the Psalms — God Reigns, Book V**

**Green Tips**—Consider electric outdoor rechargeable power tools: hedge trimmer, leaf blower, line trimmer, and mower. Battery capacity has improved dramatically, and these tools save \$ on gasoline, maintenance and oil changes. (Plus, they run quieter; avoid disturbing a neighbor’s nap!) If you have other tips to share, send them to Pastor Jimmy at [jimmy@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:jimmy@westminsterlincoln.org)

## **Service Project Worship Service!**

### **"Kids Against Hunger" Food Packing**

#### **Sunday, August 6, 9:30-11 AM in the Westminster Gym**

With excitement, you are invited to join us for a unique worship service on Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>! That day Westminster will team up with Heartland Kids Against Hunger ([heartlandkah.org](http://heartlandkah.org)) to pack 10,000 meal kits during our worship! Details are in the July Messenger and the eVine.

## **Beyond Words: From Mere Welcome to True Belonging**

Registration is now open for Covenant Conversation being held at Westminster, Saturday, August 26 from 9 AM – 4 PM. Check out the schedule and workshops at the link below! Join us for a great day!

<https://covnetpres.org/event/covenant-conversation-nebraska/?fbclid=IwAR1iRFs3ivqX0U9EXNyPsGfYKiQNG8oPnSipEZZSdfDsBvPybsnMnogTFlo>

At this event, we'll join with friends from Homestead, Missouri River Valley, and Central Nebraska presbyteries to explore the following questions:

- As Christians who believe that God's love truly extends to all people, how can we show true hospitality to anyone who walks through our church doors, especially members of the LGBTQIA+ community?
- We've said we're welcoming, but how can we show this welcome beyond the walls of our churches and offer God's love to the broader community?
- At Covenant Conversation: Nebraska, we'll worship, learn, and converse together about how we can live into a "new day" in the church and renew our commitments to witnessing to God's love for the whole world.

## **PW Fall Kick-Off**

Presbyterian Women invites all women of Westminster to attend our annual **Fall Kick-off** on Sat., Aug. 19, at 10:30 AM. We will meet for coffee, fellowship, and introduce the PW 2023-2024 Bible study called "Sacred Encounters: the Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts." Study books will be available for purchase.

## **Mission/Outreach: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (“PDA”)**

### **School Kits**

We have collected the Hygiene Kit items that you have so generously gifted and now our focus has changed to School Kits. Please note - Same place. Different focus. The PDA bucket is now ready to receive items for the PDA School Kits.

1 Blunt Scissors  
3 - 70 Count Spiral Notebooks  
30 Centimeter Ruler (12”)  
Handheld Pencil Sharpener  
6 - New Pencils with Erasers  
Large Eraser  
Box of 24 Crayons  
Cloth Bag

As before, you are welcome to complete a full kit or bring items which will be used to build a kit. Cloth bag sewing instructions are on the display or you can purchase bags to donate. Mission/Outreach thanks you for your support of this PDA project.

### **Ladies’ Night Out**

El Potrero South is the restaurant this month. Come and enjoy food and fellowship on Monday, July 31 from 5-7 PM. Please RSVP to Robyn at [robynu2@hotmail.com](mailto:robynu2@hotmail.com) or text or call her at 937-935-6858.

### **Lunch Bunch in August**

Lunch Bunch will meet Tues., Aug. 1, 11:30 AM, at Hi-Way Diner, 2105 Nebraska Parkway (Hwy 2). Please RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888.

### **Used Book Sale**

It's official! This year's Book Sale will be held in Fellowship Hall August 13-20. Start checking your shelves for items to donate—books (of course!), puzzles, games, CDs and DVDS—and bring them to the church library NO LATER THAN AUG 9. This is the sole source of funds for library materials, and we always have lots to choose from, so donate and then buy!

## Hearts & Hands

Hearts & Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wed. from 1:30 – 3 PM, in the church library. Our mission is to knit and crochet items for the People’s City Mission—hats, scarves, baby items, toys, etc. We donate finished items in November before the holidays. All needle work folks are welcome to come visit and see what you’re missing! Laughter is free. All yarn donations are welcome! Questions? Call Francy Scheele, 402-310-4212

## All Church Pool Party

Westminster has reserved Star City Shores on Thursday, August 10 from 6:30-8:00 PM to celebrate the end of the summer holiday. There are pools and play areas, interactive water features, and water slides. Bring your friends and come cool off with us!

**The church office will be closed on Friday afternoons in July. Call Pastor Jimmy (402-239-5555) if you need pastoral care.**

## Staff Schedules

Trish will be out of the office next week to volunteer at Synod School.

## Week Beginning July 23

<p><b><u>Sun. (July 23)</u></b> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:45 AM Adult Education, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship Synod School through Friday</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (July 24)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Reading Bible in a Year, Library 6 PM Session, Lounge</p>	<p><b><u>Tues. (July 25)</u></b> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM South Branch Library Summer Event, FH</p> <p><b><u>Wed. (July 26)</u></b> 1:30 PM Hearts &amp; Hands</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (July 30)</u></b> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 10:45 AM Adult Education, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
--	---

**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincoln/streams>