

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

July 13, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**"But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus,
'And who is my neighbor?'"
(Luke 10:29)**

Please rise in body or spirit for the parts of worship with an asterisk () before the title.
Parts of worship that are ***bolded and italicized*** are for all worshippers to read together aloud.

Prelude

Conner Peterson (Cello)

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship**

Deacon Diana Wild

One: Christ has set us free!

All: Free to love God, free to serve, free to welcome, and free to love our neighbors!

One: Let us worship God with gladness!

***Hymn #137**

He Came Down

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Chris Peters

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you sent Jesus to give freedom to captives and to teach us what it means to be a faithful neighbor. Still, we turn to violent means and violent words to settle our disputes. We are impatient with each other and fail to honor your commandment to love. Forgive us. Turn us from our sinful ways. Set us free in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

Lord, hear our prayer. ***Amen.***

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #583**

Glory to God

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

***Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Chris Peters

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.***

The Sacrament of Baptism

Desiree and Jared Creigh

Question of the Congregation

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to love and nurture Desiree and Jared, to provide for their Christian Education, and to set an example of

faithfulness, and to welcome them as members of the body of Christ, the family of faith?

All: We do. Desiree and Jared, we welcome you with joy and hope, energy and enthusiasm, laughter and communion, nurture and faith, love and acceptance.

New Member Welcome

Mary Creigh and Katherine Creigh

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster welcome our new members and commit to support them in the life of faith as members of this church family?

All: We welcome you to the Westminster church family, and pledge to support you in worship, faith, and service together. With you, your gifts, and your presence, we are more the church Christ is calling us to be.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37

N.T. pg. 71

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

Sermon

“A Certain Man”

Rev. Chris Peters

VBS Commissioning

Prayers of the People / Lord’s Prayer

Deacon Diana Wild

All: 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Chris Peters

Offering & Special Music

“The Lord’s Prayer” arr. Albert Hay Malotte
(Reagan Hinze, solo)

***Hymn #606**

Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound (verses 1-4)

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

Conner Peterson (Cello)

Today's words for worship, or liturgy, are adapted by Pastor Chris from *The Presbyterian Outlook Worship Liturgy for Sunday, July 13th, 2025* by Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a Children's Worship bag or blue Infant Bag in the Narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). A nursery is available for kids under 5. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available. This is at the north end of the Narthex.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: We have resumed giving through an offering in our worship service, leaning on the theology of offering as a response of gratitude to God's word in worship. Checks may be made out to Westminster Presbyterian. General donations go to support the annual budget of the church, which includes Children/Youth support, staffing, building use, worship, and mission. You may also place an offering in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located near the exits. Look for the 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 Diana Wild

Music Director: Dr. Mary Young

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Valery Wachter, Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Marybell Avery, Kathy Anderson, Joan Roberts, Joyce Douglas

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Stephan Biheng, Dale Minter



*"I am the vine,
you are the branches . . ."*

The week of July 13, 2025

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

"In times of devastation, we often ask, 'Where is God?' The answer is not that God prevents all suffering, but that **God is present in the midst of our suffering.**

We have **seen God's presence** in the heroic actions of neighbors helping neighbors, in the generosity of those who have given sacrificially to help victims, and in the quiet strength of those who **continue to hope** when hope seems foolish.

God does not promise us immunity from life's storms, but **God does promise to be our refuge and strength.**"

THE REV. BOBBY MUSENGWA



Texas Hill Country Flooding Disaster Relief

Westminster is a congregation with a strong history of support for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and those who have suffered the brunt of natural disasters, so I wanted to share a

few connection points for support. The quote in the image comes from Interim Presbytery Executive of Mission Presbytery, Rev. Bobby Musengwa. Mission Presbytery covers the areas of Kerrville, Hunt, and other places that were impacted. These words were shared in a presbytery Zoom worship service this past Sunday night. Also, Mission Presbytery leaders have shared two places of support.

First, as always, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be supporting folks for the long-haul and has already been in contact with presbytery leadership. A link to more on their work in Texas and following other disasters can be found in last week's eVine.

Locally, Mission Presbytery has recommended The Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country as an organization that is working to support those impacted in the immediate days and for the long-haul.

A link to their donation page can also be found in the eVine.

Let us pray for restoration and God's peace but let us do what we can to be helpers from afar as well.

VBS Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace | 9 AM-12 PM

VBS BEGINS THIS WEEK! Where? Good Shepherd Presbyterian [8300 E Pointe Rd.](#) Questions? Contact Trish by phone/text at 402-570-0163.

Adult Ed in July

July 13: "Let's Discuss Adult Ed," not a program, but an invitation to anyone interested to discuss anything about Adult Ed with committee members.

July 20: "Kansas City Mission Trip," Westminster youth will show photos and share experiences from their recent trip & the fun they had along the way.

July 27: Edison McDonald, Executive Director of National Disability Action, will speak on "Faithful Care: A Presbyterian Reflection on Medicaid and SNAP in Today's Policy Landscape."

Reading the Gospels Through Jewish Eyes

John Shelby Spong demonstrates in his book *Liberating the Gospels* how the thematic selections of passages in the Synoptics (Mark, Matthew, & Luke) correspond with what we know about the ancient lectionary used in 1st century C.E. synagogues. Because the earliest Christians were Jews, this perspective is vital to opening for us a Jewish understanding of these gospels. Pastor Jimmy will explore these in Adult Education sessions for August 3, 17 & 24.

Prairie Readers Meets July 16

Prairie Readers will meet in the Lounge at 1 PM on July 16. Judy White will lead the discussion of [Frozen River](#) by Ariel Lawhon. Everyone is welcome!

A message from Presbyterians for Earth Care and Green@Heart -

Plastic Free July

Join millions of people around the world in reducing their plastic waste. Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps you to be a part of the plastic pollution solution. We can have cleaner streets, oceans, and communities. Take time this July to refuse single-use plastics.

How can I reduce my plastic usage?

1. BYO (bring your own) water bottle, straw, coffee mug, reusable utensils, produce and shopping bags, and containers for restaurant leftovers.
2. Use bar soaps, shampoos, conditioners, and toothpaste tablets.

For links to examples of products, check the eVine.

Westminster Worship Survey

Westminster's Session, our "Ruling Elder Board," has received a recommendation from WPC's Worship & Music Committee to move our current 9:30 a.m. worship service 30 minutes later to 10:00 a.m. To help us with feedback, a secure online link to the survey was included in several emails recently. A limited number of printed copies are available in the Garden Room at church for submission. **Please complete one survey per household by noon today (July 13)** to help Session make the most informed decision possible at their July meeting.

July Artist Spotlight: John Nollendorfs, Photographer

John has traveled around the country and Europe taking photos. He now has a Studio at the Burkholder Project in the HayMarket. Look in the July Messenger for more information about John and his path to photography. John's work will be on display at Westminster throughout the month of July. Thank you to the WPC Art Committee for arranging this exhibit.

How was the Pentecost Offering Designated?

The Pentecost special collection resulted in a collection of \$1696. 60% of that amount, or \$1018, has been sent to the Presbyterian Church USA in Louisville, Kentucky. The Mission and Social Justice Committee decided to contribute \$500 to Prescott Elementary School for their playground renovation project. Prescott Elementary is our neighborhood school, and Westminster has supported their projects over the years. The remaining balance of \$178 will be donated to a worthy cause for at-risk issues as determined by the committee at a future date. Thank you to all who contributed.

Staff Schedules in July

Pastor Jimmy is on vacation. He will return to WPC on July 21.

Week Beginning July 13

<p><u>Sun. (July 13)</u> Worship Surveys Due at Noon 9:30 AM Worship, Sanctuary Baptisms & New Members 10:45 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (July 14)</u> 9 AM VBS, Good Shepherd 7 PM Recovery Group</p> <p><u>Tues. (July 15)</u> 9 AM VBS, Good Shepherd 10 AM Faith & Cancer Support Group, Library 10:30 AM Lincoln City Library Summer Program, FH 6 PM Communications & Outreach, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wed. (July 16)</u> 9 AM VBS, Good Shepherd 1 PM Prairie Readers 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 4 PM Foundation Marketing Committee, Lounge</p> <p><u>Thurs. (July 17)</u> 9 AM VBS, Good Shepherd 6 PM Star City Sound, Sanctuary 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Fri. (July 18)</u> 9 AM VBS, Good Shepherd</p> <p><u>Sun. (July 20)</u> 9:30 AM Worship, Sanctuary 10:45 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship Youth Serve Dinner, Matt Talbot</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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