

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

**August 10, 2025**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**



\*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** “Laudate Dominum omnes gentes” by Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens

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

**Special Announcement** Glenna Haller

**\*Call to Worship (Psalm 50:1-2)**

One: The heavens declare the righteousness of God.

***Many: The earth declares God’s beauty.***

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting

***Many: God’s word shines forth in glory.***

**\*Hymn #188**

**Jesus Loves Me!**

**\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Prayer of Confession**

***Holy God, you call us to do good, seek justice, and care for those in need, yet we often place our own comforts above compassion for others. You ask us to hope, yet we fall back into fear. You ask us to give freely, but we cling to our belongings. Forgive us, we pray. Increase our hope, enlarge our hearts, and keep us tuned into the wonders you are doing in the world every day. Amen.***

**\*Time of Silent Confession**

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

**\*Response to Confession #473**

**Shepherd Me, O God (Refrain x2)**

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,***

***Beyond my fears, from death into life.***

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

... Believe and share the good news!

***In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!***

**\*Response of Praise #591**

**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (Refrain)**

***Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!***

***Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

**\*Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*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.***

**Blessing of the Backpacks**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Hebrew Prophets

Isaiah 1:1, 14-19

O.T. pg. 630

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:32-40

N.T. pg. 75

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

**Sermon**

“A Certain Action”

Rev. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #450**

**Be Thou My Vision**

**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.***

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offering & Special Music**

“A Jubilant Song” by Mary Lynn Lightfoot

*Cantate Domino canticum novum*

Sing to the Lord a new jubilant song!

*Omnis terra*

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**\*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**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Hymn #611**

**Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude**

“Fanfare” by Lemmens

---

Today’s words for worship, or liturgy, are adapted by Pastor Chris from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year C vol. 2*; Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor.

**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

**Music Director:** Wes Hansmeyer

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Greeters:** Josh Whitfield & Stephan Biheng

**Ushers:** Marilyn Hood, Joyce Douglas, Marybell Avery, Kathy Anderson

**Dishwashers:** Lisa and Steve McConnell

**Sanctuary Audio & Livestream:** Stephan Biheng, Dale Minter



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

**The week of August 10, 2025**

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

**Today is Blessing of the Backpacks and Fall Kick-Off Sunday!** We hope you have brought your backpack, but even if you did not please come forward to receive a blessing as we begin another school year. We also hope you will stay for the fun activities and food in the parking lot after the service. There will be carnival games, face painting, bounce house, tie dye, brats & hot dogs and sundaes. Everyone is welcome!

**Welcome Wes Hansmeyer, Music Director**

WPC family, I am excited to welcome our new Music Director, Wes Hansmeyer, to our church community, into our mission, and onto our staff! Our hiring committee (Jim Kinkennon, Cyndy Maddux, and myself) felt that Wes exuded the kind and friendly spirit we value for our staff along with exceptional skills and experience to lead us well. Wes is hitting the ground running this week and is with us this morning. Please welcome him well when you see him at church. Thanks to Cyndy and Jim for their time and conversation in helping us keep our music ministries moving with wonderful leadership! You can find out more about Wes in last week's eVine.

--Pastor Chris

**Choir will begin Wednesday evening rehearsals on Aug. 20, 2025 from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.**

**Adult Ed in August | 11:15 AM | Lounge | Aug. 17 & 24**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> century C.E. synagogues. Because the earliest Christians were Jews, this perspective is vital to opening for us a Jewish understanding of these gospels. **Adult Ed will not meet on August 10 due to Blessing of the Backpacks + Community Celebration, or on August 31 which is Labor Day weekend.**

### **W3 Wednesday Activities Resume Aug 13**

Wednesday activities resume this Wednesday, August 13 from 5:30-8:00 PM. Families are welcome to join us for dinner, which will be served from 6:00-6:30 PM. Afterwards, kids from kindergarten through high school are invited to participate in activities, discussion, and fun.

This year, beginning September 3 in Faith Village, we will work towards performing a musical later this fall. Join us for W3 to find out more.

Nursery care is available on request. Let Trish know by Tuesday evening at [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org) or (402) 570-0163.

### **Prairie Readers August Meeting**

Prairie Readers will meet on August 20 at 1 PM in the Lounge. Dr. Marijane England will lead the discussion of the novel, "Trust" by H. Diaz. Please join us for a lively discussion.

### **Presbyterian Women Invite you to: A TEA PARTY**

Thursday, August 21 | 2 PM | Cole Hall

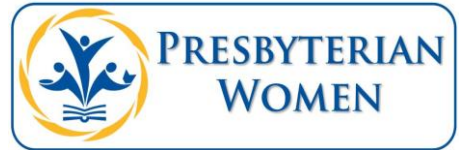
All women of Westminster are welcome to a "Gathering In" where we will hear about the 2025/26 Horizon Bible study, talk about (and collect items for) the Lincoln Hygiene Network, and enjoy each other's company.

#### **Please RSVP to:**

Linda Burchard 402-477-5572 [lindaJBurchard@gmail.com](mailto:lindaJBurchard@gmail.com)

Pat Hackley 402-423-2909, [chipathome@windstream.net](mailto:chipathome@windstream.net)

or Susie Hughes 402-440-9165, [skh@eskays.com](mailto:skh@eskays.com).



### **Faith and Cancer Support Group**

Author and cancer survivor, Lynn Eib, describes the feeling of hearing the diagnosis of cancer like "driving down the road and hitting a patch of 'black ice.' I am out of control--scary!" The Westminster Cancer Support group is an informal place of safety from 'black ice' where we share laughter, burdens and blessings. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 10 AM in the Church Library. All are welcome. Bruce Sheffield 402-303-2363.

### **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 continue to be on display at Westminster during August. Thank you to the WPC Art Committee for arranging this exhibit.



**Attention Westminister Youth and Young Adults:** Mark your calendars for the 7th annual Nebraska Youth Climate Summit, free and open to people ages 15-25. This event brings together young people from across the state to learn about the impacts of climate change and positive actions to respond to them.

Friday, September 26th, 9:00 to 3:00, in the UNL East Union. Lunch and snacks are provided. Last year over 200 people attended this popular event. Check out highlights of previous summits at [nebraskaipl.org/nebraska-youth-climate](http://nebraskaipl.org/nebraska-youth-climate), and invite a friend to go with you!

### **Tour of the Prairie | Sat., Sept. 6 | 10 AM**

You are Invited by Pat Leach and Bill Oberg to a private tour of their prairie, 10:00 am on Saturday, September 6th. Explore their native Nebraska landscape, see their home—built into a hill but still full of light, visit the “barn” house with its ingenious sustainability features, and learn about why these 75 acres have been designated a conservation easement. Don’t miss this! Send your RSVP’s to [lbvanham@gmail.com](mailto:lbvanham@gmail.com) and we’ll send you directions to finding their house, near Nine Mile Prairie.

### **Reminders from Presbyterians for Earth Care and Green@Heart:**

Water is in the news. Some areas of our country have too much water, and we have seen the terrible, devastating, and deadly flooding that results. Some areas of our country have too little water, and we bear witness to drought and fires sparked by lightning, like the fires decimating the Grand Canyon’s North Rim.

Water is also a part of our theology. Water is at our beginnings as people of faith, out of the watery chaos, God formed all of creation, and “a wind from God swept over the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:2). At the very beginning of our scriptures, water takes on beautiful and significant parts of our understanding of God, creation, and our role as stewards of our world. How can I reduce my water usage?

**Bathroom: Shorten showers**— Each minute saved in the shower can significantly reduce water usage.

**Kitchen: Run full loads** – Only operate dishwasher when full.

**Outdoors: Use a broom instead of a hose** – Clean driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of hosing them down.

## Week Beginning August 10

<b><u>Sun. (Aug. 10)</u></b> 10 AM Worship, Blessing of the Backpacks, Sanctuary Faith Village 11:15 AM Fall Kick-Off Sunday Activities, Parking Lot 12 Noon Sudanese Worship	4:30 PM Foundation Marketing, Library 4:30 PM Foundation Finance, Lounge 5 PM Foundation Board Meeting, Lounge 5:30 PM Westminster on Weds., Youth Areas
<b><u>Tues. (Aug. 12)</u></b> 4 PM Stewardship & Finance, Library 5 PM Church Life, Conference Rm 5 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5:30 PM Worship, Music & Fine Arts, FH-C 6 PM Mission & Social Witness, Lounge 6:15 PM A & P, Conference Rm	<b><u>Thurs. (Aug. 14)</u></b> 9 AM Friendship Home, FH
<b><u>Wed. (Aug. 13)</u></b> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library	<b><u>Sat. (Aug. 16)</u></b> 10 AM Homestead Presbytery at Calvin Crest
	<b><u>Sun. (Aug. 17)</u></b> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary, Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship

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

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