

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost



“Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret the present time?” (Luke 12:56)

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

“All Creatures of Our God and King” by Larry Shackley

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Special Announcement: Faith and Cancer

Deacon Bruce Sheffield

***Call to Worship** (Inspired by Hebrews 12:2 and Luke 12:51 & 12:56b) Deacon Claire Titus

One: When we are excited for the day ahead, and when the day before us feels heavy...

Many: Let us look to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, for our hope!

One: When we are overwhelmed with joy in faith, and when we are seeking or unsure....

Many: Let us look to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, for guidance in life!

One: When we feel certain of our next step, and when we are unsure of how to interpret the way forward...

Many: Let us look to Jesus, the perfecter of our faith, for a vision of true unity.

One: Let us worship God with hope, curiosity, and a sense of unity in Christ!

***Hymn #614**

Great Are You, Lord

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

God of hope, we confess our disregard of your care, our doubt of your presence, and our unwillingness to see signs of your love. We are afraid to risk our comforts to find new life. We separate ourselves from you and from our neighbors. We even foster division between those you love. Help us to amend our lives and make us your faithful people who bear the good fruit of your Word in the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

... 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. Chris Peters

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors. At this time, children in K-5th Grade are invited to be dismissed to Faith Village, our children's education time. Children's Ministry volunteers will be located by the southeast corner of the sanctuary to guide children to Faith Village. Children may be picked up after the service in the children and youth area on the lower level, through the doors at the base of the east entrance stairs.

May the peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Epistle Lesson

Hebrews 12:1-2

N.T. pg. 226

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:49-56

N.T. pg. 75

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

Sermon

"Where to Look in Uncertain Days"

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #829**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Claire Titus

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

Deacon Claire Titus

Offering & Special Music

"Give Me Jesus" arr. Mark Hayes

Michael Jha, soloist

***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 #543**

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“God Is Here” by Aaron David Miller

Today’s Call to Worship is written by Pastor Chris using the scriptures of the day. Other 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

Liturgist: Deacon Claire Titus

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: David & Kathy Anderson

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, April Douglas, Marijane England

Dishwashers: Barbara & David Arunski

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Stephan Biheng, Dale Minter



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

The week of August 17, 2025

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

Save the Date – Ministry Architects Journey Kick-Off and Initial Report!

Westminster, we will soon start an exciting new journey into the future as a church – and we want you involved! Ministry Architects is a highly regarded church consultancy organization that will be journeying with Westminster for 19 months. They'll be considering your perspective, your hopes, your ideas over that time and helping us move into the next 100 years with hope, joy, and a plan for the future! We need you involved as we pass the starting line **September 29th – October 1st**. That three-day stretch will be part of a visit by two excellent consultants who will work with us along the way! Much more info will be available soon, but here are two crucial pieces of that first visit:

Monday, September 29th, mostly afternoon and evening: Feedback and Discussion Groups

Wednesday, October 1st – Special Westminster on Wednesday: Ministry Architects Initial Report starting at 5:30 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 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. **Adult Ed will not meet on August 31 which is Labor Day weekend.**



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

Come and sing with us!

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.

W3 Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays

Wednesday activities continue this week 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 or (402) 570-0163.

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"

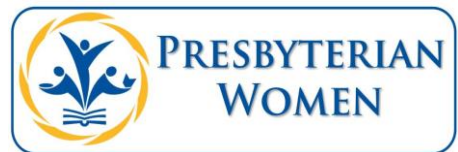
where we will hear about the 2025/26 Horizon Bible study, talk about (and collect items for) the Lincoln Hygiene Network, and enjoy each other's company.

Please RSVP to:

Linda Burchard 402-477-5572 lindaJBurchard@gmail.com

Pat Hackley 402-423-2909, chipathome@windstream.net

or Susie Hughes 402-440-9165, 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.

World on a Plate--Texas

Donations collected for Texas Hill Country Flooding Disaster Relief totaled \$1240. Thank you to all who contributed.

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 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?

How can I reduce my water usage?

Bathroom: Use a low-flow showerhead – These fixtures reduce water flow without sacrificing pressure.

Kitchens: Avoid using the garbage disposal – They often require significant amounts of water.

Outdoors: Collect rainwater – Install a rain barrel to collect rainwater for watering plants.

Youth Group Retreat | August 23-24

The Youth Group head to Carol Joy Holling on August 23 at 1:00 PM for an afternoon of high ropes adventure and an overnight of fun. We will sleep in the Western Village and be ready to return to Lincoln by 9 AM. We will attempt to arrange carpools for transportation — stay tuned for more information to come. The cost for the Fall Youth Retreat will be \$50. Scholarships are available. The link to register is in the eVine.

Cultivating Hope. Finding Belonging. Making Sense of the Nonsensical.

Join award-winning author Jeff Chu in conversation with Pat Leach, host of Nebraska Public Media’s *All About Books*, as they explore these powerful themes behind Jeff’s new book *Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand*. Come Friday, Sept. 12 at 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 840 S. 17th St., Lincoln, NE. For more information and to save your seat, visit fpclincoln.org/jeffchu.

Week Beginning August 17

<u>Sun. (Aug. 17)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary, Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship <u>Mon. (Aug. 18)</u> 7 PM Recovery Group, Library <u>Tues. (Aug. 19)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting, Conference Room 10 AM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library 6 PM Communications & Outreach, Lounge <u>Wed. (Aug. 20)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary	<u>Thurs. (Aug. 21)</u> 12 PM PW Meeting Setup, Cole Hall 2 PM Presbyterian Women Fall Meeting, Cole Hall 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge <u>Sat. (Aug. 23)</u> 6 PM Youth Group Retreat, Youth Areas <u>Sun. (Aug. 24)</u> Disability Inclusion Sunday 10 AM Worship, Baptism, New Members, Sanctuary, Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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