

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

August 24, 2025

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Disability Inclusion Sunday

“But the LORD said to me, ‘Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you” (Jeremiah 1:7)

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

“Blessed Assurance” by J. Bert Carlson

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship** (adapted from 1 Corinthians 12)

Chris Patten

One: Praise the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

All: Praise God, who is love, who made us in God's own image.

One: We give thanks that just as the body is one and has many parts, so too is the Body of Christ.

All: For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body-- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, disabled or nondisabled-- we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

One: Let us worship the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us!

***Hymn #754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

***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.***

***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. 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.***

Sacrament of Baptism

Daniel Dunlap

The Study Catechism: Confirmation Version (Question 55)

One: What is baptism?

All: Baptism is the sign and seal through which we are joined to Christ.

Baptismal Affirmation by Congregation

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to welcome Daniel, to walk with him in his faith and in his questions, and to be a friend in his journey with Jesus?

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

New Member Recognition

Daniel Dunlap and Charles Duncan

Elder: I invite you to welcome our new Westminster members using the printed words of welcome...

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

Choir Anthem

“In This Very Room” Ron Harris
Summer Choir

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm

Psalm 71:1-6

O.T. pg. 532

Hebrew Prophets

Jeremiah 1:4-10

O.T. pg. 698

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

Sermon

“God Calls”

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn #691

Lord, When I Came into This Life

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

Josh Swanson & Josh Whitfield

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

Josh Swanson & Josh Whitfield

Offering & Special Music

“Poor Wayfaring Stranger” arr. Jay Althouse
Sanda Masic, 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 #69

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” by Carlson

Today’s words for worship, or liturgy, are either written by Pastor Chris or adapted by Pastor Chris from *PCUSA Disability Inclusion Sunday Resources 2025*.

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

Liturgists: Chris Patten, Josh Swanson, Josh Whitfield

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Paul Korslund, Josh Swanson

Ushers: Becky Bockrath, Bruce Sheffield, Margaret Sheffield, Rohn Loyd

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Stephan Biheng, Dale Minter





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

The week of August 24, 2025

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

Actions and Reactions. The push-and-pull, ebb-and-flow nature of our actions and reactions can define our daily living. This is not a new reality! Starting today we begin an exciting new worship series focusing on the prophet Jeremiah. We will be amazed how God acts and we react, and how God reacts when we act. Each week we will discover that God ultimately acts and reacts with faithfulness to God's people. That was good news in the past, and it's really good news for us today!

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

Save the Date – Ministry Architects Listening Groups & Initial Report!

Monday, September 29th – Wednesday, October 1st, 2025

Westminster, we will soon start an exciting new journey into the future as a church – and we want you involved!

First, we want to introduce you to Ministry Architects, a highly-regarded church consultancy organization that will guide us in strategic planning work for 18 months, an exciting journey that begins with their initial visit September 29th – October 1st, 2025!

Ministry Architects will spend time listening to you, our members and friends, through focused listening groups. We hope to see participation in those groups from a broad spectrum of members, regular attenders, volunteers, leadership, and anyone else who wants to share their voice.

We want your insights, your frustrations and your dreams to be heard. After spending time in these groups, the Ministry Architects consultant will write a report, sharing with us what they've heard about the church's ministry – including assets, challenges, and how we compare to other churches around the country – and where it seems that God might be taking us next.

Here is the schedule for the initial visit. More info coming soon!

Initial Visit Schedule

Monday, September 29th

Listening Sessions with Consultants

Times: 2:15-3:15p, 3:30-4:30p, 4:45-5:45p, 6:00-7:00p (WPC Session), 7:15-8 :15p

Listening Session sign-up coming soon!

Tuesday, September 30th

Ministry Architect Consultants meet with WPC Staff and Write Report

Wednesday, October 1st

Special Westminster on Wednesday: Ministry Architects Initial Report

Dinner – 5:30pm; Report at 6:00pm

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

FILL 'ER UP....The Green Barrel is Back

Presbyterian Women at Westminster are partnering again with the Lincoln Hygiene Network to collect new and unopened essential hygiene products. These products are crucial for the dignity, well-being, and health of our Lincoln area neighbors. The barrel is located at the top of the stairs at the East Entrance during September and October.

The most needed items are body soap, deodorant, and period products. A full list of items is near the barrel. The items serve all ages across our city. Our GOAL: 3 Times Full. Please partner with us with kindness for our neighbors.

Ladies Night Out | Wednesday, August 27th | 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

You are welcome to join us at Billy's Restaurant, 1301 H Street; 5-7 PM. **Please RSVP by**

Monday, August 25th to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com (937) 935-6858.

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.

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?

Bathroom: Reuse towels - Drying towels can reduce laundry frequency and water consumption.

Kitchens: Reuse cooking water – Cool water from boiling vegetables can be used to water plants.

Outdoors: Check for leaks – Regularly inspect outdoor faucets and hoses for leaks.

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.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet at Ollie & Hobbes on Tues., Sept. 2 at 11:30 AM. Join us for good food and lively conversation!

Week Beginning August 24

<p><u>Sun. (Aug. 24)</u> Disability Inclusion Sunday 10 AM Worship, Baptism, New Members, Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Aug. 25)</u> 6 PM Session, Lounge 7 PM Recovery Group, Library</p> <p><u>Tues. (Aug. 26)</u> 2 PM Presbytery Team, Lounge 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge</p> <p><u>Wed. (Aug. 27)</u> 11 AM Presbyterian Advocacy Hour, Lounge 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5 PM Ladies' Night Out</p>	<p>5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Aug. 28)</u> 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sun. (Aug. 31)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary, Faith Village 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p>The church offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 for Labor Day.</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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