

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

September 14, 2025

Season of Creation II

Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of the daughter of my people
not been restored?
(Jeremiah 8:22)

New Revised Standard Updated Edition



Jerusalem: A Medical Diagnosis Exhibition, Tower of David Entrance, The Old City of Jerusalem, Israel

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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

“When Morning Gilds the Skies” arr. Robert Lind

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship** (Inspired by Psalm 79:9 and 124:8) Deacon Ashley Lammers

One: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Many: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;

One: Deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name’s sake.

Many: Let us worship God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer!

***Hymn #41**

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Creator God, you give us life and show us grace, yet we turn away. Your fertile earth is being consumed of its riches, living waters stained by misuse, and clear air defiled by pollution. God, our maker, so move us by the wonder of creation that we confess our misuse, change our direction, and care more deeply. So move us that we learn to better cherish and protect your world that moves and inspires us to know you more.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

... 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

Kamiya Blyden

Question of the Congregation

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to love and nurture Kamiya, to provide for her Christian Education, and to set an example of faithfulness, and to welcome her as a member of the body of Christ, the family of faith?

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

Hymn #486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verses 1 & 4)

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust & love God more than all.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scriptures

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

O.T. pg. 709

Gospel Reading

Luke 16:1-13

N.T. pg. 79

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

Sermon

“The People Disappoint”

Rev. Chris Peters

Hymn #792

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

Deacon Ashley Lammers

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 Ashley Lammers

Offering & Choir Anthem

“O Love” Elaine Hagenberg
Michele Bartos, Cello

***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 #819**

Be Still, My Soul (verses 1 & 3)

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Intrada” by Jean Sibelius

Today’s words for worship, or liturgy, are adapted by Pastor Chris from the resource *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year C vol. 2*; Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book: Creation Liturgy.

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 Ashley Lammers

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kelly Braswell-Burbach & Josh Swanson

Ushers: Barbara Wright-Chollet, Marybell Avery, Joan Roberts, Marilyn Hood

Dishwashers:

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Stephan Biheng, Dale Minter





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

The week of Sept. 14, 2025

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

Ministry Architects Initial Assessment Sign-Up

This month we begin a 19-month journey with Ministry Architects, a highly-regarded and experienced church consulting firm as we look ahead to the next 100 years of ministry for Westminster at Sheridan and South! Sign-Up opportunities are now live for Listening Group Sessions on Monday, Sept. 29 and our Churchwide Initial Report Dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 1. We need and value your voice in this first step of the process! **Please sign up.** You are welcome to ask questions of Pastor Chris (chris@westminsterlincoln.org) or Emily Killham (ekillham@gmail.com). The QR Code will link you to the sign-up, or you may click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D48AAAF2EA6FAC16-58538329-westminster#/>



Adult Ed. in Sept., 11:15 AM

Sept. 14— Our friends at First Presbyterian Church have invited us to share in a potluck and continue a relaxed conversation with Jeff Chu about the themes in his book, *Good Soil: The Education of an Accidental Farmhand*.



Sept. 21—Care for the Land—Because the Land Cares for Us
Edison McDonald, Development and Government Relations Director for GCRsolve, returns to talk about good soil, good food, and good earth care. Can farmers make a profit without depleting resources for the next generation? Can cattle, people, and robots work peaceably together? At our Climate Jeopardy game last spring Edison described some of the natural techniques employed in regenerative agriculture, and we all wanted to hear more. So, hear here! Bring your coffee, and no registration is necessary.

Sept. 28—Regina Sullivan, Executive Director of the Marvilee Non-Profit in Lincoln, Nebraska, is a passionate advocate for youth mental health and substance abuse prevention. Inspired by the loss of her son Marvin Lee Sullivan to an accidental overdose, Regina founded Marvilee to support families affected by addiction and mental health challenges. A 2025 Inspire Award nominee, she champions Narcan awareness and access, aiming to build stronger, more supportive communities for young people.

Let's Celebrate Our Beloved Pets



Who has the cutest, funniest or best costume? Bring a photo (8x10 or smaller) of your entry in the contest with your name and the name of your pet written on the back to church to be displayed in the art gallery. Winners will be chosen by ballot. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to Dogs, Cats and Others. All pets are eligible. Photos of pets who have crossed over the Rainbow Bridge are welcomed to be displayed but will not be in the contest. **Entries are accepted Sept 5 through Sept 25.** Place your photos in the Paw Box in the Garden Room. No frames, please. **Winners will be announced and prizes awarded on October 26** after the service in Fellowship Hall. Don't have a pet? Join us at the awards ceremony for special human treats, anyway. You won't have to do a trick, roll over or beg.

One Full Barrel.....Two More to Go

Thank you, Westminster! The Lincoln Hygiene Network collection is well under way and will benefit many people in Lincoln with new personal care products. There is a list of the items needed by the barrel at the top of the east stairs. Should you care to make a monetary donation, send a check to Lincoln Hygiene Network (Westminster PW in memo line) to: 21635 S. 68th St. Hickman, NE 68372. This project goes through September and October and is coordinated by Presbyterian Women.

Prairie Readers will meet on Wed. Sept. 17 in the Lounge at 1 PM. Margaret Sprude will lead the discussion of James by Percival Everett. The book won the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and is a finalist for One Book One Lincoln. James is described as "A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." Everyone is welcome!

Photography Collection by John Janovy

In keeping with Westminster's September Creation Celebration, the Westminster Art Gallery will be displaying photographs by one of its members, John Janovy, Jr. John's show will be a collection of photographs taken around Holmes Lake here in Lincoln. The show will be on display until Sept. 28. Framed images are available for purchase. Enjoy John's photographic perspective of Holmes Lake as you wander down the Westminster corridor.

September tips from Presbyterians for Earth Care and Green@Heart:

Food Waste, Food Labels, and Composting

In the U.S., nearly 120 million pounds of food are wasted annually—about 40% of the nation's food supply, or 325 pounds per person. Suggestions for avoiding unnecessary waste:

1. Plan Your Meals and Make a List: Inventory check – Review what you already have in your fridge, freezer, and pantry to avoid buying duplicates.
2. Buy only what you need: Consider frequency – Opt for frequent, smaller trips for fresh produce to avoid spoilage.
3. Other helpful tip: Storage matters – properly store your groceries to extend their shelf life and prevent spoilage.

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.

Pastor Chris will be out of the office beginning Sept. 16 through Sept. 22. He will be attending the Presbyterian Board of Pensions CREDO clergy wholeness and wellness program at Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. This is a once-in-a-career opportunity and conference staff encourage participants to be fully present for the week, so Chris will not be available by email or for calls during this time. Call the church office if you need pastoral care or for other urgent concerns.

Week Beginning September 14

Sun. (Sept. 14)

10 AM Worship with Baptism;
Faith Village
11:15 AM Adult Ed.
12 Noon Sudanese Worship

Mon. (Sept. 15)

11 AM Explorers Bible Study,
Library
6:30 PM Den Meeting, Cole
Hall, Youth Café
7 PM Recovery Group

Tues. (Sept. 16)

10 AM Faith & Cancer Support
Group, Library
6 PM Communications &
Outreach, Lounge

Wed. (Sept. 17)

1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge
1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library
5:30 PM W3 Wednesday
Activities, Youth Areas
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal,
Sanctuary

Thurs. (Sept. 18)

6 PM Lincoln Continentals
Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7 PM Camera Club, Lounge

Sun. (Sept. 21)

10 AM Worship; 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>