

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

**September 28, 2025**

**Season of Creation IV**



**For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.  
(Jeremiah 32:15)**

\*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 Things Bright and Beautiful” arr. Keith Kolander

**Welcome**

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

**Special Announcement: Peace and Global Witness Offering**

Gary Haller

## Financial Deficit Update

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

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

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

***All: Praise God for the heavens and the earth and all that is in them!***

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

***All: Praise God who feeds the hungry and uplifts the downtrodden!***

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

***All: Praise God who gives sight to the blind and sets prisoners free!***

One: Come! Praise the Lord!

***All: The Lord will reign forever! Praise the Lord!***

### \*Hymn #15

**All Creatures of Our God and King**

### \*Call to Confession

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

### \*Prayer of Confession

***Almighty God, you call us to lives of service, but we confess that we ignore our neighbors in need right outside our door. You call us to share our abundance, but we confess that we choose our own comfort over generosity to others. You call us to build community, but we confess that we are too often gatekeepers, letting in only the ones that make us comfortable. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to be content with enough and inspire us to share what we have – our prosperity, our power and our love – until all your children have life and dignity in the church community. We ask this in the name of 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. At this time, children in K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to be dismissed to Faith Village, our children's education time.*

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

## Sacrament of Baptism

Zane Rehfeldt & Annelise Stelzer

### 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 Annelise and Zane, to walk with them in their faith and in their questions, and to be a friend in their journey with Jesus?

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

### New Member Recognition

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!***

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture

Hebrew Prophets  
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15  
The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

O.T. pg. 736

#### Sermon

“People Reinvest”

Rev. Chris Peters

#### Hymn #36

#### For the Fruit of All Creation

#### Prayers of the People / Lord’s Prayer

Elder Jaime Hemmerling

***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 & Choir Anthem

“All Things Bright and Beautiful”—John Rutter

*This joyful anthem celebrates the beauty and diversity of God’s creation, making it a meaningful welcome for new members joining our church family and for pets we all love!*

**\*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. Chris Peters

**\*Hymn #365**

**God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude**

“Let All Things Now Living” arr. Wayne L. Wold

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Today's words for worship, or liturgy, are adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook Order of Worship for the 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost, September 28, 2025* by Rev. Rae Watson, Associate Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Staunton, Virginia.

**Flowers are given by Glenna Haller, in honor of Presbyterian women.**

**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 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:** Elder Jaime Hemmerling

**Music Director:** Wes Hansmeyer

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Greeters:** Joyce Douglas & Janice Rohwedder

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

**Dishwashers:** Lisa & Steve McConnell

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





*“I am the vine,  
you are the branches . . .”*

**The week of Sept. 28, 2025**

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

### **Ministry Architects Listening Group Sessions Begin Tomorrow**

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](mailto:chris@westminsterlincoln.org)) or Emily Killham ([ekillham@gmail.com](mailto: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 Education Today at 11:15 AM in the Lounge**

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.

### **Church History Series for Westminster Adult Education**

**Sundays at 11:15 a.m.**

**October 5**     An overview of “St. Francis of Assisi – the proto-reformer” Presented by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

**We are excited to welcome Araseli Gonzalez to the WPC staff.** She will participate in the care of our building and in the room set-ups requested for our gatherings, as well as many other duties. She will work 20 hours a week, primarily in the evenings and on Sunday mornings. Be sure to say hello and make her feel welcome!



### **Explorers Bible Study | 11 AM on Mondays | Library**

A group of curious Bible explorers begins their study this fall with *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans. Evans' goal is to explore some of the challenging stories in the Bible to help the reader discover the Bible in a new way. As Amazon describes the book...."If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When New York Times bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it can change you, too." The book is available on Amazon as an electronic download or a paperback hard copy. Stop by the library at 11 a.m. on Mondays to join us for the discussion. We look forward to seeing you.

### **Let's Celebrate Our Beloved Pets**



**Today is the last day to enter your pet in the contest.** 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.

### **Giving Continues to Fill the Barrel**

Our contributions continue as we fill the second barrel for the Lincoln Hygiene Network. Dustin Oltman, Executive Director for the organization, was astonished at the number of items Presbyterian Women delivered to their warehouse. The project continues through October. Every bar of soap, toothbrush, razor, or deodorant stick helps someone in Lincoln find dignity. **Lunch Bunch** will meet at Granite City on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 11:30 AM. No program, no agenda, just fun. Please RSVP to [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com) or text to 402-290-5888.

**Prairie Readers** will meet on October 15 at 1 PM in the lounge. This is a special gathering since Pat Leach, the host of *All About Books* and former head of the Lincoln City Library system will be our guest. Pat will review selected fiction and nonfiction titles from the American Library Association Notable Books for Adults list. 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: Stick to the list – Resist the temptation to buy items not on your list, even if they are on sale, as they may end up as waste.
2. Buy only what you need: Bulk buying wisely – while trips to the big box stores and bulk buying can save money, ensure you can consume the items before they expire.
3. Other helpful tip: Utilize leftovers – Plan meals that incorporate leftovers to minimize food waste.

### **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.

**The preschool is having a fundraiser mum sale on Wed., Oct. 1 from 3 – 7 pm.** They will be set up outside near the circle drive. Stop by and support the Preschool.

**Pastor Jimmy is returning today from a week's vacation and will be in the office on Monday.**

## Week Beginning September 28

<p><b><u>Sun. (Sept. 28)</u></b> 10 AM Worship--Baptisms, New Members; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><b><u>Mon. (Sept. 29)</u></b> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 1 PM Ministry Architects Begin Listening Groups, Fellowship Hall 5:50 PM Session with Ministry Architects, Lounge 6:30 PM Scouts Den Meeting, Cole Hall, Youth Cafe 7 PM Recovery Group</p> <p><b><u>Tues. (Sept. 30)</u></b> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting with Ministry Architects 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge 6:30 PM Children, Youth &amp; Family, Zoom</p>	<p><b><u>Wed. (Oct. 1)</u></b> 10 AM PW Circle #3, Lounge 1 PM Hearts &amp; Hands, Library 5:30 PM Ministry Architects Presents Report to Congregation, Catered Meal in Fellowship Hall 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Thurs. (Oct. 2)</u></b> 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><b><u>Fri. (Oct. 3)</u></b> 1 PM Funeral for Nancy Dawson Reception to Follow, Fellowship Hall</p> <p><b><u>Sun. (Oct. 5)</u></b> Equal Exchange Coffee Available 10 AM Worship—Communion; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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