

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



The Messenger

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*"The Lord will indeed give what is good, and
our land will yield its harvest."*

Psalm 85:12

Sunday Service

We welcome you to Worship in the
Sanctuary with us on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
and/or worship virtually with us on our
YouTube channel at
[https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-
videos](https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos)



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2110 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025

VOLUME 95 ISSUE 11

A Message to the Congregation

Westminster,

I think there's a pretty simple truth we can all agree upon: we give because we are grateful. We give our time packing boxes in the Westminster Food Pantry. We give our input in listening sessions with Ministry Architects. We give our money to support the wide-ranging work of Westminster as a church family. This year our Giving Season's focus is simply, "Grateful!" a word and a feeling that emphasizes our response to God's grace and goodness – with gratitude!

If you are a member, you will receive a small packet of information about how to give in 2026. If you are not a member, you may request information from the church office or on our website after November 5th. In 2025, our Finance Committee has been clear about the need for increased giving to support and grow our budget. And you have responded! Our staff and leadership are "Grateful!" for your increased support. Now... before you put down your coffee and turn the page keep reading a few points on 'why' and 'how' you can help us have a thriving and flourishing year in 2026 as a church!

Why Pledge to Give for 2026...

- Where we have been: In December 2026 we will celebrate 100 years at Sheridan and South. For the upcoming year we will engage moments and memories from our past in celebration of our history and tradition.
- Where we are now: Our youth program for 6th – 12th graders is at its highest engagement and participation level since 2019, and we are engaging children's ministry with a renewed focus as part of our Ministry Architects Consultancy Journey. Between staffing of one full-time Director of Children & Youth and two part-time youth leaders, a significant space in Faith Village and the Youth Café that requires cleaning and heating/cooling

- several times a week, and a robust program budget, 15-20% of every dollar you give in 2026 goes toward Children & Youth Ministries (and that doesn't include our large support of Westminster Preschool)!
- Where we are headed: 2026 will include an intensive look at the usage of our facilities, and as I like to say, will be our year to shift to a more positive view of seeing our buildings and grounds as a vessel for mission and ministry rather than a financial hassle to keep up. To make that shift, we have to not only maintain but also continually improve our facilities. Your giving supports that renewed vision and emphasis on welcoming and supporting our neighbors for the coming years!

How to Give for 2026...

- Bring your completed Pledge Card to worship on November 16th, and place it in the basket during worship. You may also return it to the church office via mail. This act is both symbolic and practical. Pledging before the end of the year allows us to plan well for a faithful, impactful, and growth-focused 2026!
- You are encouraged by our Stewardship Team to consider "The Power of 10" – increasing your giving in some way by 10% this coming year.
- If you gave more in 2025 and can continue or increase that support for future years, we hope you will increase your pledge to help us in a world where costs only go up year-to-year.
- Help us meet our goal of growing Pledged Giving Income to \$650,000. It's a big goal, but if as we heard in a recent sermon on Luke, a little faith can go a long way.

Westminster, let's give because we are grateful toward our faith life together in 2026!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris and your Stewardship Committee

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WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2025



Look What We're Learning!

Halloween always brings an exciting batch of events to Preschool. Now it's time to take a break before Christmastime is upon us. We're working hard to practice for our Christmas Program that is just around the corner. After our successful Mum fundraiser, we're anxious for our Eileen's cookie results! In Chapel, we've been learning the stories of Joesph and Moses.

Take a look at some of the themes we're learning about in November:

STARFISH CLASSROOM:
COMMUNITY HELPERS

BUMBLEBEE CLASSROOM:
SCIENCE LAB

OWL CLASSROOM:
COMMUNITY HELPERS



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 3RD ---
FIREFIGHTER VISIT

NOV. 13TH/14TH ---
COOKIE FUNDRAISER ENDS

NOV. 26TH - DEC. 1ST
NO SCHOOL
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Justice & Peace Calendar – November

•Native American Heritage Month;
archives.gov/news/topics/native-american-heritage-month or nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov

03–09 Children's Book Week 2;

everychildareader.net/cbw

08–16 National Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week;

pcusa.org/how-we-serve/justice-peace/hunger

13 World Kindness Day;

randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day

20 Universal Children's Day;

un.org/en/observances/world-childrens-day

20 Transgender Day of Remembrance; glaad.org/tdor

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence

Against Women;

un.org/en/observances/endingviolence-against-women-day

25–Dec 10 16 Days of Activism against Gender

Violence; unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-againstwomen/take-action/16-days-of-activism

27 Thanksgiving; pcusa.org/resource/thanksgiving-prayers

Adult Ed

November 2: (All Saints Sunday): Bible Study and Reflection: Rev. Ellen Davis will lead a discussion of this day's Lectionary reading.

November 9: Bible Study and Reflection: Rev. Ellen Davis will again lead a discussion of the day's Lectionary reading.

November 16: No Adult Ed (Elder and Deacon initial training will following the Stated Meeting of congregation for election)

November 23: "Values and Vocabulary." Rev. Lauren Peters will lead this fun, interactive workshop on how we speak about our Church.

November 30 (Advent 1 and Thanksgiving weekend): Liz Kocher of the Lutheran Center will preach at Service and and will meet and greet or lead a short program afterward at Adult Ed.

Explorers Bible Study | Library | Mondays 11:00 AM

Hearts , Hands, & Hugs | Library | Wednesdays 1 –3 PM

Hearts & Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every

Wednesday in the church library. All needle work folks are welcome to come visit and see what you're missing! Laughter is free. All yarn donations are welcome! Questions? Call Dorrie Gage at 402-730-9676.

Lunch Bunch | Old Chicago Southpointe | November 4 | 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, November 4, 11:30 A.M., at Old Chicago, 27th & Pine Lake, in the Southpointe shopping area. RSVP to Jim Kinkennon at 402-290-5888 or jimkinkennon@gmail.com.

Faith & Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, November 18 | 10:00 AM | Church Library

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, November 19 | 1:00 PM

Prairie Readers will meet November 19 at 1 PM in the lounge. This is a chance to hear what friends are reading and to create the 2026 reading list. Everyone's contribution is important! See you there.

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service | Sunday, November 23rd | 3:00 p.m. | Westminster Presbyterian Church

Ladies Night Out | Tuesday, November 25 | Lila Mae's | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

November Ladies Night Out will be Tuesday, November 25th 5–7 PM; at Lila Mae's Southern Kitchen, 2110 Winthrop Rd. <https://lilamaessouthernkitchen.com/>

Feel free to invite a friend! We would love to have a seat for you at the table. Please RSVP by Sunday, November 23rd to robynu2@hotmail.com (937) 935-6858.

Art Show featuring Gwen Hlava | Oct. 30 – Nov. 23

Gwen Hlava has been part of Westminster her entire life, with deep family roots in the church. After a fifty-year career as Professor and Chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene at UNMC, she recently retired but continues to stay active through her love of basket making. Her passion began in the 1980s and led her to specialize in Nantucket baskets, which are unique, handcrafted pieces made from solid wood molds and adorned with materials like ivory and lapis lazuli. Gwen collaborates with a Nantucket studio to prepare custom molds and materials for each design.

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Calvin and Knox Talk Thanksgiving

"Squeak! Calvin, Calvin!" Knox scurried into the church kitchen, his whiskers twitching. "I heard people are preparing a feast for Thanksgiving. Do you think they'll save us a plate?"

Calvin chuckled. "Squeak...maybe, Knox. But Thanksgiving isn't just about food."

Knox's eyes widened. "Not about food? But I smelled turkey, stuffing, AND pie! Eeeeeek!"

"Yes, yes," Calvin said, "the food is wonderful. But Thanksgiving is really about giving thanks to God for our blessings."

Knox thought for a moment. "So...you're saying gratitude is more important than pumpkin pie?"

Calvin grinned. "Exactly. Though pie...is awfully good."

Knox nodded solemnly. "I'm thankful for crumbs, and for the kind church folks who drop them. And for your good advice, Calvin."

"And I'm thankful for you, Knox," Calvin replied. "You remind me to laugh, even when I'm serious."

Knox twitched his tail happily. "Well, I'm also thankful no one invited cats to the feast. Squeak-squeak!"

The two mice squeaked with laughter, their hearts—and stomachs—full of gratitude.

🍂 A Thanksgiving Blessing:

This November, may we all find joy in gratitude—whether in big feasts or small crumbs—and may God's blessings overflow in our lives and in our church family.

Scripture:

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." — 1 Thessalonians 5:18



A Season of Thankful Giving

The Lincoln Hygiene Network and **Presbyterian Women** thank everyone who helped to collect personal care items for our community. We delivered 3 barrels full of tooth brushes, deodorant, razors, soap, shampoo, feminine products, and more to expand our compassion and care across Lincoln. We are deeply grateful to all of you.

In November we faithfully and joyfully give to the **Thank Offering of Presbyterian Women**. Today thousands benefit from grants that support programs including our own Homestead Presbytery for **Sleep in Heavenly Peace**, which provides beds for kids in need. Westminster is part of this mission effort and anyone can give to support the projects through the Thank Offering. Contact Linda Burchard or Glenna Haller.

God works through us to bring hope and renewal to others, even in the midst of seemingly impossible situations. Let us give with thankful hearts.

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A Message from Green at Heart and PEC

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

Climate Friendly Cooking & Eating – tread more gently In the most comprehensive analysis to date of dietary patterns and their climate impact, researchers have found that vegan diets create 75% less greenhouse gas emissions than meat-heavy diets. Eating lower on the food chain, cooking with plants and not animals, will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Are we suggesting that you should move to an entirely plant-based diet? No, not at all! But we are encouraging you to move in that direction maybe one, two or three days a week. Even a small commitment will make a difference.

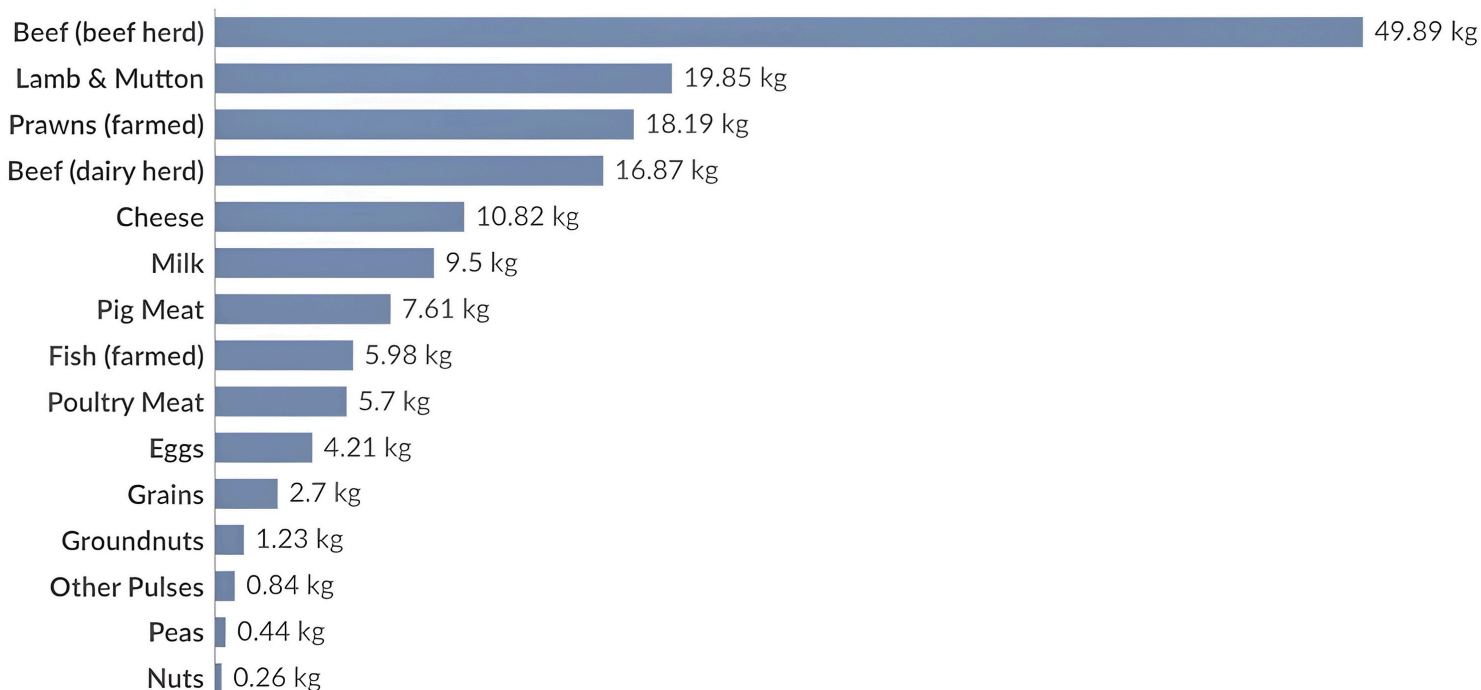
An excerpt from the Montclair Presbyterian Church (Oakland, CA) cookbook says, “Humans have complex relationships with food. Food is deeply connected to our habits, emotions and identities. It also reflects our hospitality. It can be a source of comfort and familiarity, health and well-being, and creativity and

self-expression. We use food to communicate affection and to maintain family and cultural traditions. Enjoying food with those we love is one of life’s greatest pleasures. Yet, sadly, our current ways of feeding ourselves are not sustainable. Global food production accounts for at least 26% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions, and animal agriculture – livestock, fish farms, and the feed and land they require – accounts for over half of those emissions.” Do you want to try and eat lower on the food chain? Look at the chart below and imagine what that might look like for you and your family. Look for plant-based cookbooks. Cook with a friend or family member. Get creative with your cooking and you could just help save the planet.

To help you get started, look for plant based recipes in the Vine and EVine during the month of November from Green@Heart and kitchens near you.

Greenhouse gas emissions per 100 grams of protein

Greenhouse gas emissions are measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide-equivalents



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Youth News

Pie & Trivia | November 19

5:45 PM-6:15 PM

Treat your taste buds and kick off the holidays with this time-honored WPC tradition. We will share a special meal of soups before moving on to dessert. You are invited to bring your favorite pie or other dessert to add to the shared buffet. We will provide whipped topping. If possible, please RSVP to Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163 to give our chefs an idea of how much food to make.

For added fun, this year we are adding a quick game of Mind the Gap style trivia. Build a team of your own by including members from Boomer, Gen X, Millennial, and Gen Z generations or come ready to assemble your team on site.

Call for Baked Goods | December 7

Advent is coming up fast and the Youth Group will be sponsoring a baked goods auction at the Advent Workshop again this year to support various mission initiatives throughout the year. We are calling for our talented and creative bakers to donate something special to the cause. Cakes, pies, brownies, bars, breads, or anything you would like to make is welcome.

Contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org if you are interested in helping us out. Please indicate ingredients if possible. Master creations can be delivered between 10-2 on Friday or on Sunday morning the week before the Advent Workshop.

Advent Workshop/Baked Goods Auction/Chili Cookoff/Christmas Decoration Swap | December 7 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

As we prepare to move into the season of expectation and preparation, we invite you to join us at the Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall on December 7. We will gather immediately after church to renew friendships, enjoy food together, and make lasting memories. At the craft tables, we will be making paper angels and Hershey kiss Advent calendars. After you make a craft, enjoy the hot chocolate and coffee bar and decorate cookies.

The WPC Youth Group will again sponsor a baked goods auction to raise money for mission projects throughout the year. Part of the auction will be silent and part will be emceed. In addition to the auction, there will be items available for immediate purchase.

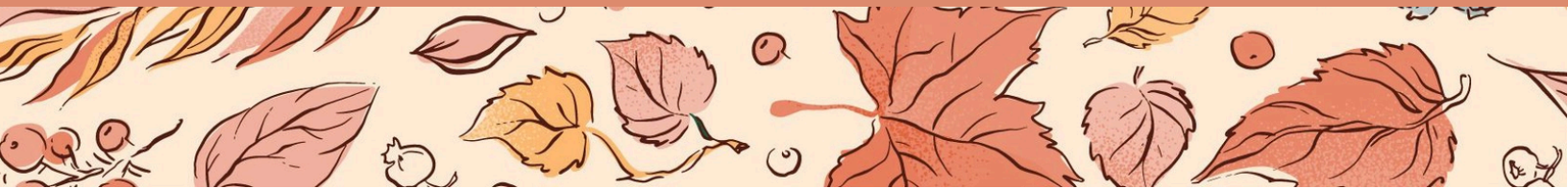
The annual chili cookoff will take place on December 7 as well with the coveted Silver Ladle award on the line. You are invited to check out this year's entries and select the best entry. In keeping with Nebraska tradition, we will also have cinnamon rolls available for you to enjoy with your chili.

This year we are introducing a new activity, a Christmas Decoration Swap. Bring in your old Christmas decorations and swap them for someone else's old decorations. Proceeds from the swap will be used for WPC Youth Group mission work.



Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who helped make this year's Spooktacular event such a success! We're especially grateful for everyone who hosted a table and brought fun, creativity, and Halloween spirit to the night!

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Westminster
Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68502

Finance Committee Update

Jaime Hemmerling -Stewardship & Finance Committee

The Stewardship & Finance Committee would like to provide an update on the status of the church's financials for 2025.

Earlier this year, the Session approved, and the congregation was presented, the 2025 budget and there were some significant concerns. The budget presented was an honest and transparent budget that showed a budget shortfall of approximately \$113,000. At that meeting, we asked for your patience, understanding and help. We are pleased to provide you with an update that is good news. Our committee has worked very hard at leaving no stone unturned as we promised we would do. Expenses have been managed by all the committees within the church well and we anticipate the expenses will come in under budget for the year. The foundation has provided support to the church quarterly as was planned. In addition, the foundation has assisted with some of the administrative expenses relating to their operations previously covered by the church. A new contract with the preschool is nearly complete. All of the asset and liability accounts on the church's financial statements have been researched and some

reallocation has resulted in additional income for the year. But now for the good news that was outside of our control. We notified you, members of the congregation, of our concerns with the finances, and you have responded. Pledges for the year have come in at a higher rate through the first 3 quarters of the year than in the past. In addition, slightly over \$45,000 of additional unanticipated giving beyond pledges has been received to assist with the budget shortfall. We cannot thank you enough for your support. We haven't fully resolved the shortfall, but we have reduced the budget shortfall from its initial starting point of \$113,000. We are currently projecting a shortfall of approximately \$15,000. This is definitely something to celebrate. We ask for your continued support as we strive to finish the year strong. As you may recall, the budget presented did not include any raises for our staff; a fact that none of us are proud of. We are hopeful that if the 4th quarter continues as the first three have, we will be able to rectify that issue as well as provide some assistance to committees for things that had to be left out of the budget for the year.

On behalf of our committee and the Session, we thank you. If anyone has any specific questions, please feel free to reach out to any member of our committee.