

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

November 9, 2025

22nd Sunday after Pentecost



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

“Prelude on MARTYRDOM” by Healey Willan

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Session Update

Elder Paul Korslund

***Call to Worship (Psalm 98)**

Deacon Claire Titus

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Many: We will break forth into joyous song, and sing praises.

One: Sing praises to the Lord;

Many: Make a joyful noise with trumpet and the sound of the horn.

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it.

Many: The floods clap their hands and the hills sing out together;

One: Let us join in the joyful song of creation.

***Hymn #697**

Take My Life (verses 1-4 & 6)

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we confess that we are too easily influenced by voices of despair and alarm, too quick to sink into numbness and apathy, too tired to imagine another way. Breathe new life into us, we pray. Help us to be mindful of your promises, your faithfulness, and your presence as we face the challenges of our lives. Restore our vision and give us courage to live in your truth. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

***Assurance of Forgiveness (from Psalm 145, adapted)**

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #643**

Now Thank We All Our God (verse 1)

***Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.***

***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.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Epistle Lesson

2 Thessalonians 2:13-16

N.T. pg. 206

Gospel Reading

Luke 20:27-38

N.T. pg. 84

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

What's an epistle? Simply, an epistle is a letter. The term comes from ancient languages, including Greek *epistole*, "message, letter, command, or commission." It is similar to the word "apostle," meaning a "messenger." (etymonline/word/epistle)

Sermon

"Those Who Live"

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #644**

Give Thanks, O Christian People

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.

Stewardship Moment

Loy Olson

Invitation to the Offering

Offering & Anthem

"Here I Am, Lord"

"Here I Am, Lord" reminds us that those who truly live in Christ respond to His call with willing hearts. To live is to say, "Here I am, Lord — send me."

***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 #649**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Prelude on DEO GRACIAS” by Healey Willan

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today’s liturgy is adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook: Worship Liturgy for Sunday, November 3, 2025* by Rev. Haley Ballast, Pastor of Wallingford Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA.

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: Deacon Claire Titus

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Valery Wachter & Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Marybell Avery, Marilyn Hood, Joyce Douglas, Kathy Anderson

Dishwashers:

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng





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

The week of Nov. 9, 2025

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

Westminster Adult Education--Today at 11:15 a.m., Lounge

Adult Education this Sunday will be an opportunity to respond to that question you ponder every Sunday after worship: What did today's sermon say to me? Or perhaps you simply need an opportunity to discuss what you heard in both the scripture lesson and the sermon. Here's your chance to express your thoughts, ask questions, or simply reflect on the sermon. We can't guarantee we have the answers but in a welcoming community facilitated by retired Pastor Ellen Davis, we promise you will meet others ready to reflect on this week's sermon.

**Commitment Sunday and Fall Stated Congregational Meeting
Sunday, Nov. 16, 2025**

Next Sunday you are invited to bring your 2026 Giving Campaign Commitment and 2026 Time and Talent Forms to church. During the service, those will be placed in a central basket as a sign of commitment to support the ministry and mission of Westminster in 2026. Forms were included in Stewardship Packets mailed this past week. If you are still discerning your pledge for 2026, there will be an alternate card to place in the basket. Also, next Sunday, Nov 16, our Fall Stated Congregational Meeting will be held following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect 2026 Officers of the Church (Ruling Elders and Deacons), and to vote on changes to the WPC Bylaws.

November Prairie Readers

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.

Communion Schedule Note

Communion will be held one more time in 2025, on Sunday, November 23, in celebration of Reign of Christ / Christ the King Sunday. This scheduling was approved by Session in accordance with Book of Order guidelines. Did you know... the PC(USA) Book of Order requires a minimum of quarterly communion celebrations for our congregations, though many are like Westminster and celebrate roughly once-a-month?

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 23, 3:00 p.m.

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lincoln

This service of gratitude is open to everyone, and all faiths are welcome and encouraged to attend. In a world that serves up daily reminders of what divides us, this service brings together people of all faiths, and reminds us of what binds us together in our shared expressions of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Clergy from many different faiths will participate, with this year's featured speaker being Rev. Thomas Dummermuth from Eastridge Presbyterian Church in Lincoln. A native of Switzerland, Thomas moved to Lincoln in 2013 by way of West Virginia. Thomas holds a Master of Theology from the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Art Show Featuring Gwen Hlava

We're delighted to feature the beautiful basket artistry of Gwen Hlava, a lifelong member of Westminster. After a fifty-year career as Professor and Chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene at UNMC, Gwen retired and continues to pursue her passion for basket weaving. Her work focuses on traditional Nantucket baskets, known for their solid wood molds, durability, and timeless design. Gwen often adorns her baskets with materials such as ivory, Sanskrit, and lapis lazuli, creating pieces that are both elegant and unique. Though she has been weaving for decades, Gwen has never sold a basket—each one is a labor of love, reflecting her creativity and the friendships she's formed along the way.



View Gwen's work at Westminster from October 30 – November 23.

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

Treading more gently on the Earth with Plant based recipes:

African Peanut Soup

6 servings as a main. Ghana Nkate Nkwanin

2 T Oil

4 Cloves pressed garlic

2 Med Onions, coarsely chopped

28 oz can whole tomatoes, quartered, reserve liquid

2 Large Green peppers, coarsely chopped

10 C Vegetable stock

½ t black pepper, coarse ground

¾ C Peanut butter to finish

½ t dried crushed chili peppers

2 C white rice - Rice cooker - yields 4 C

½ C raw Brown rice

Crushed peanuts to garnish

In a large soup pot heat oil, sauté onions, peppers, garlic, seasonings and brown rice, till they start to brown. Cut in the tomatoes and cook over med/high for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, till they cook down. Pour in the remaining tomato juice and stock. Bring to a boil, reduce to a simmer, partially covered for 45 minutes. When all but ready, ladle out some lumps, add peanut butter, and use an immersion blender. Re-add lumps. Simmer for a few minutes. Serve with a ½ C scoop of rice. Garnish with peanuts. Keeps well for lunch next day.

Shared by Ron and Trish Souliere

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 soup 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.

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.

Week Beginning November 9

<p><u>Sun. (Nov. 9)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Nov. 10)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 6:30 PM Den Meeting—Pack 61, Cole Hall, Youth Café 7 PM Recovery Group, Library</p> <p><u>Tues. (Nov. 11)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting, Conference Room 10 AM Circle 5, Lounge 5 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5 PM Church Life, Conference Rm 5:30 PM Worship Music & Fine Arts, Fellowship Hall 6 PM Mission & Social Witness, Lounge 6:15 PM A & P, Conference Room 6:30 PM Children, Youth & Family, Zoom</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Nov. 12)</u> 1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Nov. 13)</u> 6 PM Lincoln Continentals Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sat. (Nov. 15)</u> 11 AM Funeral for Mary-Ann Clinton, Chapel</p> <p><u>Sun. (Nov. 16)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village 11:05 AM Fall Stated Congregational Meeting, Election of Officers 11:30 AM Elder & Deacon Initial Training / Lunch, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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