

# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

November 16, 2025

Commitment Sunday / 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

“Festival Voluntary” by Flor Peeters

## Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

## Stewardship Moment

Joyce Douglas

## Choral Introit

“Come By Here” by Kyle Pederson

Westminster Choir joined by the Titan Singers Ensemble

*Today's Gospel reminds us that God is with us even in times of trial. “Come By Here” is a prayer for God's presence and strength.*

## \*Call to Worship

Deacon Ashley Lammers

One: Surely God is our salvation;

***Many: we will trust, and will not be afraid,***

One: for the Lord God is our strength and our might;

***Many: God has become our salvation.***

One: Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously;

***Many: let this be known in all the earth.***

## \*Hymn #712

**As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought**

## \*Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

## \*Prayer of Confession

***God of Mercy, we confess that we have not been obedient children of grace. We have grown idle in the work of discipleship and weary in doing what is right. We have been selfish in our actions and insistent in claiming our rights. Forgive us, we pray. Show us the way of repentance, free us from our idle ways, and strengthen us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. 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-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.***

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:5-19

N.T. pg. 85

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

**Sermon**

"Those Who Endure"

Rev. Chris Peters

**Choral Anthem**

"Let the River Run" by Craig Hella Johnson

Norris High School Titan Singers Ensemble

Carey Helmink, accompanist

*Let the River Run is a musical reflection on resilience. This piece honors those who suffer and points toward hope, unity, and renewal.*

**Invitation to Commitment**

Deacon Ashley Lammers

Today you are invited during the following hymn to bring forward your offerings or your Grateful! annual giving commitment cards for 2026. If you are still discerning how you will give, you are invited to return the bulletin insert. If you are visiting or not wishing to come forward, we value you and see that this can seem like a strange moment in our worship. As Presbyterians we worship God with gratitude, and so we seek to share and show our gratitude in this time for the year to come. You do not have to come forward, and we hope you will sing and value the music and the profession of commitment from others during this time.

**\*Hymn #692**

**Spirit, Open My Heart**

**\*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 and of the People/Lord's Prayer

Deacon Ashley Lammers

***All: 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.***

## \*Hymn #647

Give Thanks

## \*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

## Postlude

“Toccata Brevis” by Daniel Gawthrop

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### Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion: Year C, All Saints Sunday*, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor.

**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 Ashley Lammers

**Music Director:** Wes Hansmeyer

**Organist:** John Ross

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

**Greeters:** Kathy Phillip & Josh Swanson

**Ushers:** Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Carol Shelbourn, Joan Roberts

**Dishwashers:** Tom Pappas & Laurel Van Ham

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





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

**The week of Nov. 16, 2025**

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

### **Commitment Sunday and Fall Stated Congregational Meeting**

Today is commitment Sunday. During the service, you will be invited to bring your 2026 Giving Campaign Commitment and 2026 Time and Talent Forms and place them in a basket as a sign of commitment to support the ministry and mission of Westminster in 2026. Forms were included in Stewardship Packets mailed to you recently. If you are still discerning your pledge for 2026, there will be an alternate card to place in the basket. Also, our Fall Stated Congregational Meeting will be held following the worship service today. 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. We hope you will attend.

### **Adult Ed. in November**

**Nov. 16:** Due to the Fall Stated Congregational Meeting and training of Elders and Deacons there will not be an Adult Ed. Class.

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

**Nov. 30:** Rev. Liz Kocher of the Lutheran Center will preach at the service and will also lead the Adult Ed. Class.

### **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.

### **Angel Tree**

Once again, Westminster is partnering with the Salvation Army on the Angel Tree Project. Christmas and holiday gifts from the Angel Tree are given to children from low-income families. Gifts, toys, clothing, and much more are provided for children from infants to age 12. Starting Nov. 14, look for the Angel tree in the receptionist's desk area. Pick a tag from the tree and shop. Return the **unwrapped** gifts, with the tag attached to the bag, placing them under the tree. **Gifts must be returned to the church no later than Dec. 12.** Most people, especially children, look forward to receiving clothing and gifts over the holidays. Will you be someone's Angel? Thank you.

--Mission & Social Witness

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

**Treading more gently on the Earth with Plant based recipes:**

#### **Jen's Candied Pecans**

- 2 cups raw pecans or walnuts (or a combo)
- 1 1/2 Tbsp melted coconut oil or olive oil
- 2 Tbsp coconut sugar (plus more for topping)
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg

1/4 tsp sea salt  
2 Tbsp maple syrup (divided)

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- Add nuts to a bare (or parchment-lined) baking sheet and top with oil, coconut sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, and 1 Tbsp of the maple syrup. Toss well to coat.
- Bake for a total of 12-15 minutes, or until golden brown and fragrant, tossing/stirring once at the halfway point to ensure even cooking. Then remove from oven and immediately drizzle with remaining 1 Tbsp of maple syrup. I also like to sprinkle on a little more salt, cinnamon, and coconut sugar to coat, but this is optional.
- Stir to combine/coat and enjoy warm or let dry/cool completely on the pan (they'll crisp up as they dry/cool) before storing in an airtight container at room temperature up to 2-3 weeks (or in the freezer up to 1 month).

### **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](mailto: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 16**

### **Sun. (Nov. 16)**

10 AM Worship; Faith Village  
11:05 AM Fall Stated  
Congregational Meeting,  
Election of Officers  
11:15 AM Elder & Deacon Initial  
Training / Lunch, FH  
12 Noon Sudanese Worship

### **Mon. (Nov. 17)**

11 AM Explorers Bible Study,  
Library  
7 PM Recovery Group, Library

### **Tues. (Nov. 18)**

10 AM Faith & Cancer Support  
Group, Library  
4 PM Finance Committee, FH  
6 PM Communications &  
Outreach, Lounge

### **Wed. (Nov. 19)**

1 PM Communion Visits  
1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Lib.  
1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge  
3 PM Ministry Architects—  
Implementation Team, Lounge

5:30 PM W3 Wednesday  
Activities, Youth Areas  
5:30 PM Pie & Trivia, Cole Hall  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary

### **Thurs. (Nov. 20)**

8 AM Ministry Architects—  
Implementation Team, Lounge  
10 AM Homestead Presbytery,  
Tekamah  
5 PM Westminster Ringers  
Rehearsal, First Plymouth  
Church, Handbell Room  
6 PM Lincoln Continentals  
Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
7 PM Camera Club, Lounge

### **Sun. (Nov. 23)**

10 AM Worship with  
Communion; Faith Village  
11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge  
12 Noon Sudanese Worship  
3 PM Community Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Service, Sanctuary

**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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