

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

November 23, 2025

Reign of Christ Sunday



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

“Now Thank We All Our God” by Paul Manz

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Mission Moment: Stuff the Truck & Christmas Joy Offering Deacon Gary Haller

*Call to Worship (Psalm 90:1-2 Common English Bible)

Rev. Chris Peters

One: Lord, you have been our help, generation after generation.

Many: Before the mountains were born,

One: Before you birthed the earth and the inhabited world—

Many: From forever in the past to forever in the future, you are God.

*Hymn #367

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

arr. by Jeremy J. Bankson

Westminster Choir, Westminster Ringers, Organ, Congregation

Verse 1 – All; Verse 2 – Choir; Verse 3 - Quartet and Ringers; Verse 4 - All

*Call to Confession

Rev. Chris Peters

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have failed to name Jesus as the king and model for our lives. We have been quick to expect others to be more Christ-like, yet slow to expect it of ourselves. We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness, yet quiet in offering inclusion, love, and compassion. Forgive and restore us, O God. We welcome your mercy and transformation in the name of Christ. Amen.

*Time of Silent Confession

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

*Assurance of Grace and 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-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.***

Special Music

“Glee and Gladness” by Kurt Meyer
Westminster Ringers

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Bible Reading

Isaiah 53:1-6

O.T. pg. 683

Gospel Lesson

Luke 23:33-43

N.T. pg. 89

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

Sermon

“Those Who Comprehend”

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

“I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge.” Ephesians 3:18-19

*Hymn #263

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Chris Peters

Offering & Choral Anthem

“For This Joy” - Susan LaBarr

Sanda Masic, Flute

The choir’s anthem, “For This Joy,” reminds us to give thanks for life’s blessings.

*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

The Lord’s Supper

Invitation

Rev. Chris Peters

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

Communion Music

“Eternal” by Jason Krug
First Plymouth Ringers

Prayer After Communion

*Hymn #265

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude

“Thanksgiving Suite” arr. Kurt Meyer
First Plymouth Ringers

Liturgy Notes and Sources

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

The flowers are given by Don and Debra Schleining and family in memory of Debra's mother, Joann Barth, and in celebration of her birthday.

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

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kathy & David Anderson

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

Dishwashers: Lisa and Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng

Communion Servers: Marybell Avery, Sarah Baltensperger, Stephan Biheng, Sebit Deng, Colton Graham





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

The week of Nov. 23, 2025

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

Thank you to First Plymouth Ringers for joining us in worship today! We appreciate the music you will share to enhance our worship experience this morning.

Westminster Bell Ringers

Anyone who is interested in ringing with the Westminster Ringers, directed by Christopher Boilsen, please join us for rehearsals on Thursdays at 5 PM in the Bell Room at First Plymouth Congregational.

Upcoming Adult Ed. Classes

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.

Dec. 7: No Adult Ed. due to Advent Workshop

Dec. 14: "Christ Emptying Himself: The Incarnation" led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Dec. 21: "Emmanuel: the Presence of God in Isaiah and Matthew" led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Dec. 28: No Adult Ed., Christmas break



Stuff the Truck

Sunday, Dec. 7, from 9 AM to 1 PM, Westminster will host our *Stuff the Truck* food drive. A gray pickup truck will be in the parking lot, and we invite you to bring non-perishable food items to support the Food Bank of Lincoln. This is a simple way we can live out our vision to expand our lives in faith, connect people deeply, and make a difference through service. Every donation helps feed families in our community.

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Today at 3 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.

2026 Giving Campaign

Last Sunday was Commitment Sunday, but it's not too late to turn in your financial pledge, as well as your Time and Talent Form for 2026. A few people have indicated that they didn't receive the information that was sent in the mail. There are copies in the Garden Room under the TV for anyone who needs one.

Pledge Campaign Update and Thanks – A Note from Pastor Chris

Thank you to all of our members who have turned in pledges to this date! We have an exciting 2026 ahead of us, and your support will help us to be the church Christ is inviting us to be in the year(s) ahead!

2026 Pledges through 11/18/26 (2 Days Post-Commitment Sunday)

General Pledge: \$411,394

Per Capita: \$4,062

Total: \$415,456

63% of the way toward our "Dream Budget" Goal of \$650,000 in pledges

81% of the way toward equaling Stewardship 2025 Pledges (Note: these were the pledges as of the \$112k deficit budget, not the incredible extra giving our members and friends have shared to close the gap from initial projections! Way to go, Westminster!)

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

December Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, December 2, 11:30 AM, at The Garage, 5551 S 48th. RSVP to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

A Nebraska Brass Christmas

Westminster is hosting a Nebraska Brass Concert on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 PM. It will feature festive holiday sounds. Tickets can be purchased at the door. They are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, children and students are free. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music!

Westminster's Gift to the Planet

Remember that there's an earth care-ful way to dispose of the Styrofoam that shows up at this gift giving time of year. WPC has been partnering with Plastilite Corporation in Omaha. Plastilite is a creator of some of that foam, but (thank God for them) they take it back and reuse it. The collection bin will soon appear by the east doors and will be there through February. Thanks in advance for the trouble it is to keep this material out of the landfill. **Note:** Must be clean and rigid. No food containers or egg cartons.

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.

Hearts, Hands & Hugs

Hearts and Hands got a name upgrade! Say hello to *Hearts, Hands & Hugs*—because they never leave a Wednesday gathering without sharing a hug. Hearts, Hands & Hugs is a fun-loving group that meets every Wed. from 1:30 – 3 PM, in the church library. Our mission is to knit and crochet items for the People's City Mission—hats, scarves, baby items, toys, etc. We donate finished items in the fall before the holidays. 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, 402-730-9676.

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 23

<u>Sun. (Nov. 23)</u> 10 AM Worship with Communion; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 3 PM Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Sanctuary 4 PM Reception, Fellowship Hall	<u>Wed. (Nov. 26)</u> 1 PM Communion Visits 1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Library <u>Thurs. (Nov. 27)</u> Thanksgiving Day, Offices Closed <u>Fri. (Nov. 28)</u> Staff Holiday, Offices Closed <u>Sat. (Nov. 29)</u> Decorate the Church <u>Sun. (Nov. 30)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship
<u>Mon. (Nov. 24)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study, Library 7 PM Recovery Group, Library <u>Tues. (Nov. 25)</u> 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge	

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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