

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Rachel (left) and Leah (right) by Michelangelo Buonarroti, Tomb (1505-1545) for Julius II, San Pietro in Vincoli. Wikipedia Commons use, credit Jörg Bittner Unna.

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 in d minor” by Christian Heinrich Rinck

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Stained Glass Window Update

Jim White

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 95:1-5, NRSV Updated Edition)

Deacon Claire Titus

One: O come, let us sing to the Lord;

Many: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

One: Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving;

Many: let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

One: For the Lord is a great God

Many: and a great King above all gods.

One: In the Lord’s hand are the depths of the earth;

Many: the heights of the mountains are God’s also.

One: The sea is the Lord’s, for God made it,

Many: and the dry land, which God’s hands have formed.

***Hymn #65**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy One, you have created covenants with us and ask that we agree to uphold right relationships with our neighbors as well. We confess that we have turned away from you and have not lived with upright hearts. Forgive us for failing to follow you better than we have. Guide our feet to walk in your ways and serve your world to the glory of your name. 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 #544**

Bless the Lord

***Bless the Lord, my soul,
and bless God’s holy name.***

***Bless the Lord, my soul,
who leads me into life.***

***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.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Gospel Reading

Matthew 12:46-50

N.T. pg. 13

Hebrew Scriptures

Genesis 31:25-27, 43-50

O.T. pg. 28

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

Sermon

“Reimagining: Leah and Rachel”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #415**

Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Deacon Claire Titus

Offering & Choir Anthem

“Ave Verum Corpus” by W.A. Mozart

Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus offers a quiet, prayerful moment of reflection.

Following today's sermon on Leah and Rachel, the anthem invites us to contemplate God's presence amid human longing, struggle, and faithfulness, and to rest in God's redeeming 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. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Hymn #547**

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Postlude in d minor” by Rinck

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today’s liturgy is adapted from Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year A Vol 2., Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor. Additionally, the Call to Worship is adapted from Psalm 95 in the NRSVUE translation, and the Call to Offering is written by Pastor Chris.

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

Handbell Director: Christopher Boilesen

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Stephanie & Scott Rogers, Porter Woita

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Barbara Arunski, Marijane England

Dishwasher: Tom Pappas & Laurel Van Ham

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: William McConnell



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

The week of Mar. 15, 2026

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



**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 18,
6:00-9:00 PM**

**Facilitated by Ministry Architects
Dinner & Childcare Provided**

For more information or to register
RSVP by Realm or please contact:

Kathy Rohwedder at
kathrohwa@yahoo.com or (402) 202-9889

Come Help Shape the Future of Westminster

This important evening, facilitated by Ministry Architects, is an opportunity for us to dream together, discern together, and help shape the future of our church. Your voice matters, and we hope you'll be part of the conversation. Please RSVP. Dinner and childcare will be provided. Let's gather, listen, and imagine what God is calling Westminster to become in the next season. We hope to see you there!

ADULT EDUCATION LENTEN SERIES

"Encounters on the Way to Jerusalem"

A curriculum written by and taught by Pastor Jimmy Shelbourn

Sundays at 11:15 a.m., Lounge near the Reception Desk

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| Mar 15 | Lent 4 | "Blind Bartimaeus and Faith" | Mark 10:46-52 |
| Mar 22 | Lent 5 | "Sympathetic Pharisees" | Luke 13:31-35 |
| Mar 29 | Palm Sun. | "The Last Scribe to Dare Ask a Question" | Mark 12:28-34 |

Pretzel Bar | Sun., March 15

After the service on Sunday, March 15, you are invited explore the connections between Christianity and pretzels while enjoying a salty treat with an array of dipping sauces.

Prairie Readers | March Meeting | March 18

Prairie Readers will meet Wednesday, March 18, at 1 PM in the Lounge. Kathy Anderson will lead the discussion of Dust Child by Panque Nguyen. Come join us for an enlightening discussion.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule Change | March 18

The choir will rehearse on March 18 from 5 PM to 6 PM, so members can participate in the Vision Summit meeting with Ministry Architects.

Clean Up Time!

Spring is almost here and our church grounds are in need of a good cleaning. **March 21 from 9 AM to Noon** is the next date & time. Please consider helping on that Saturday. Although, anytime you can help is gratefully appreciated. We will have a short devotion and prayer before we start. In the event of bad weather, the date will be moved to the next weekend. --Tom Pappas & Gary Haller

Presbyterian Advocacy Hour | Wed., March 25 | 11 AM | Lounge

Join us in the lounge for a zoom presentation and discussion afterwards. This month's topic is Christian Nationalism. All are welcome.

Palm Sunday Crane-apalooza: 1000 Birds of Peace

March 29 | 11 AM in Fellowship Hall

All WPC children, youth, and families are invited to participate in a meaningful community art project immediately following the worship service on Palm Sunday, March 29. We will be folding origami peace cranes that will become a vital part of "1000 Birds of Peace," an inspiring and significant work of public art.

March Art Exhibits

The Art Committee is pleased to present the photography of Bernadette Korslund and John Shaw for our March exhibition.

Bernadette's love of nature began with her childhood in Mende, France. Her camera is a constant companion in collecting the visual wonder and magic of our surroundings. Bernadette is an active member of Lincoln Camera Club and is the spouse of Westminster member Paul Korslund.

John Shaw is a long-time Lincoln resident whose image making includes architectural and landscape photography. John is an accomplished musician on violin and guitar and brings this artistic sensitivity to his photos. He is also known locally for his book *Cameron the Capitol Cat*.

Swanson Scholarship Applications Due March 31

Established in 1999 by the Swanson Family, this scholarship provides \$500 financial support per recipient for one academic school year. Full-time undergraduate students and high school senior members of Westminster are encouraged to apply. Renewal of the scholarship for subsequent years is not automatic but will be considered by the selection committee. Applications are available on the church website ([https:// westminsterlincoln.org](https://westminsterlincoln.org)) under the GIVE tab or in the church office. The scholarship is open to individuals in all courses of study; however, preference will be given to applicants demonstrating an interest in Education and Community Service. Application deadline is March 31, 2026.

Summer Special Music

This summer, we invite members of the congregation to share their musical gifts during worship! Special music will be provided by a Summer Choir, which will sing occasionally, as well as by individuals and groups from the congregation.

You might choose to sing, play the piano or another instrument, ring bells, or gather a small group to offer music together. You do not need to currently be singing or playing in a church group to participate—everyone is welcome! We especially encourage youth and families to consider sharing their gifts.

Summer special music is a wonderful way to offer praise to God and enrich our worship together. Please consider participating yourself, encouraging your children, or even sharing music as a family.

Summer music runs from May 31 through Labor Day.

To sign up, please email wes@westminsterlincoln.org.

I'm excited to hear from you and look forward to the many ways our congregation will share their musical gifts this summer! 🎵

Save the Date: Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

On Saturday, June 13, 2026, Westminster will live out its mission to expand our lives in faith, connect people deeply, and make a difference through service by hosting a community bed build in partnership with Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a nonprofit driven by a simple but powerful mission: "No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town." On build day, volunteers will work side-by-side in our church parking lot. Be sure to save the date to volunteer and watch for more information coming soon. -Mission & Social Witness Committee

Week Beginning March 15

<p><u>Sun. (Mar. 15)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village 11 AM Pretzel Bar, Garden Room 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (Mar. 16)</u> 10 AM Shirley Schildman Funeral, Ropers 11 AM Lenten Bible Study— Pastor Ellen, Library 7 PM Recovery Group, Library</p> <p><u>Tues. (Mar. 17)</u> 10 AM Faith & Cancer, Library 6 PM Communications & Outreach, Lounge 6:30 PM Children, Youth and Family, Zoom</p> <p><u>Wed. (Mar. 18)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library</p>	<p>5 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities Youth Areas – All</p> <p>6 PM Vision Summit with Ministry Architects, Fellowship Hall</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Mar. 19)</u> 5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal, First Plymouth 6:30 PM Scouts Committee Meeting, Youth Café 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge</p> <p><u>Sat. (Mar. 21)</u> 9 AM Spring Clean Up of Church Grounds</p> <p><u>Sun. (Mar. 22)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village; Sanctuary 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>