

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter



LeCompte, Rowan and Irene LeCompte. "Christ shows himself to Thomas" Mosaic in National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. (Photo by Mary Ann Solari retrieved April 8, 2026 from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. Used with noncommercial rights permission.)

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

“Alleluia! Christ Is Risen”

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship**

Elder Karen Hoffman

One: Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!

Many: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

One: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

Many: In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.

One: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

Many: For the outcome of our faith is the salvation of our souls.

***Hymn #253**

Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Chris Peters

***Prayer of Confession**

God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often, we put other things above you and turn away from the ways of life and toward the ways of death. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may know the fullness of joy. 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 #246**

Christ Is Alive! (verse 5)

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

***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

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

N.T. pg. 232

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

N.T. pg. 115

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

Sermon

"What Will Define Your Story?"

Pastor Scott Pontier

*Hymn #238

Thine Is the Glory

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Elder Karen Hoffman

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

Choir Offertory Anthem

"I Will Be a Child of Peace" arr. Elaine Hagenberg

This anthem reflects Jesus' gift of peace to the disciples, inviting us to carry that peace into our own lives. As the passage from John reminds us, Christ transforms fear into calm assurance and calls us to live as children of peace in the world.

*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. Chris Peters

*Hymn #240

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

*Charge & Benediction

Pastor Scott Pontier

Postlude

"Toccata on DUKE STREET" by Gilbert Martin

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Year A Vol 1.*, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor.

Welcome Scott Pontier to Westminster's pulpit!

Pastor Scott has been in vocational ministry since 1999 and is passionate about equipping churches, developing leaders, and engaging in strategic planning for sustainable growth. Scott has served as an executive pastor, where he designed ministry systems and equipped leaders, and as a campus pastor, where he developed a growing campus focused on 18–25-year-olds and ministry with local college students. He also planted and led a church for 10 years. Prior to his pastoral leadership, Scott held multiple roles with Young Life and served as a youth pastor in several churches across the Midwest.

Scott holds a Master's degree from Western Theological Seminary and is the co-author of *Sustainable Young Adult Ministry: Making It Work, Making It Last*. He lives in the suburbs of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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

Guest Preacher: Pastor Scott Pontier, Ministry Architects

Liturgist: Elder Karen Hoffman

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Handbell Director: Christopher Boilesen

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Brooke & Matt Larson

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Joan Roberts, Barbara Arunski, Marijane England

Dishwashers: Barbara & David Arunski

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter





*“I am the vine,
you are the branches . . .”*

The week of Apr. 19, 2026

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

Invest in being Informed!!

Part of being a good steward of creation is being well-informed. Here are two excellent and convenient opportunities to up your earth care IQ. All presentations will last 45 minutes, from 11:15-noon. Just pick up your coffee and come to the Lounge Classroom after worship.

Sunday, April 19th

Did you know that Nebraska has completed a comprehensive Climate Assessment? And that we have a State Climate Office? Dr. Deb Bathke, State Climatologist, will talk about what the assessment has to teach us about extreme weather, Nebraska’s economy, and more. Turns out looking at the past can tell us a lot about our future!

Sunday, April 26th

Did you know that data centers and AI are putting new and unprecedented demands on Nebraska’s prized public power utilities? Scott Benson, LES Director of Strategy and Innovation, last spoke with us during Creation Celebration 2018. What has changed since that time? What will it mean for the ways our electricity is generated and for our utility bills going forward? And how will it affect LES’s commitment to reducing carbon emission?

Lincoln Celebrates Creation!

Lincoln Earth Day

Saturday, April 25th, 10:00-2:00, Innovation Campus—free event for the whole family with 40 local organizations, face painting, local food, bike rodeo and maintenance, clothing swap, book mobile. Details at lincolnearthday.org

Cranes, Plains, and a Watershed

Saturday, April 25th, 7:30, First Presbyterian Church—An evening with Michael Forsberg, photographer and conservationist featured in Audubon, National Geographic, Nature Conservancy, and Sierra Magazines. Tickets at <https://fpclincoln.org/michaelforsberg/>

Arbor Day LNK

Sunday, April 26th, noon-3:00, Antelope Park—free event with live music, tree planting, yoga, tree identification, exhibits. Details at <https://www.arborday.org/conferences-events/arbor-day-lnk>

Power Down!

Protect our landfill and water table and recycle valuable materials. Bring your used batteries to Westminster's reception area and put them in the giant battery container for recycling. Be sure to follow the directions provided on the lid about which types of batteries need their terminals covered with masking tape (also provided). One more opportunity to be a good steward of creation!



What Next?

Christ has risen. What happens next? What happens to Jesus' followers? Join others to explore these questions as we read and discuss the stories of the early Church's formation in the book of Acts each Monday morning at 11 AM in the church Library during April and May. For more information: edavis3655@gmail.com

Fifth Sunday Cereal Offering

Our Palm Sunday, fifth Sunday, was a huge success. Thanks to all of you that donated cereal. We received 73 boxes which means we won't have to purchase cereal for 12 weeks. That is a great help and of course you are always very welcome to bring cereal and other items every Sunday for our pantry. The next fifth Sunday is in May and who knows what item we will select. Thanks again!

Swanson Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Aspen Hemmerling on being selected as the recipient of the \$500 Swanson Scholarship awarded annually by the Westminster Presbyterian Church Foundation. The Foundation was most impressed with her high school academic career, extracurricular activities, history of service to Westminster, and faithfulness to God. The church made a commitment of support to her at baptism, and it is an honor to support her now as she begins her collegiate career.

April Art Display—Dale Minter

The Art Committee is pleased to present the photography and assemblages of Dale Minter for our April exhibition. You probably know Dale from his presence in the WPC video booth, recording the livestream each Sunday. Dale is displaying pieces from different series of his art adventures. Many of his works combine photographic layers of nature and man-made objects. Dale is also including some recent assemblage work which add his images into 3-dimensional objects. Along with his display images, Dale will have some smaller canvas images for sale with the profits donated to the WPC video booth fund.

Dale Minter has lived in Lincoln for the last 30 years. He received a BFA in Interior Design from James Madison University (Harrisonburg, VA) and MFA in Fine Art Photography from Cranbrook Academy of Art (Bloomfield Hills, MI). Dale is an associate member of the Burkholder Project Gallery and has recently shown at the WallSpace Gallery here in Lincoln.

May Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet on May 20 at 1 PM in the Lounge. Dale Minter will tell us about *How to Solve Your Own Murder* by Kristin Perrin. Everyone is welcome!

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.

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! 🎵

Adult Ed. Recordings Available

Did you know that you can access recordings of some of the previous Adult Ed. classes on WPC's website? The link is in the weekly eVine that comes out on Wed. Otherwise, this is the link to copy into your browser: <https://westminsterlincoln.org/adult-education/>

Week Beginning April 19

<p><u>Sun. (Apr. 19)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel</p> <p><u>Mon. (Apr. 20)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study— Pastor Ellen, Library 6:30 PM Scouts Den Meeting, Cole Hall, Youth Café 7 PM Recovery Group, Library</p> <p><u>Tues. (Apr. 21)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Faith & Cancer Support Group, Library</p>	<p><u>Wed. (Apr. 22)</u> 11 AM Advocacy Hour, Lounge 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Apr. 23)</u> 5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Sat. (Apr. 25)</u> 10:30 AM Lounge Reserved, Project Pink'd</p> <p><u>Sun. (Apr. 26)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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