

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



# The Messenger

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*"In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."*

*-Excerpt from Hymn of Promise*

### Sunday Service

We welcome you to Worship in the Sanctuary with us on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and/or worship virtually with us on our YouTube channel at <https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos>



(402) 475-6702



2110 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

VOLUME 96 ISSUE 5

## A Message to the Congregation

Westminster friends,

As we move from April's greening of our trees and landscapes to May's celebrations as we near the end of a program year\*, we do so with hope. Currently our Ministry Architects Implementation Team is in the midst of reviewing a new Vision with updated Values and Goals that will give us a course to chart for the next chapter of our life together. Our A&P Committee has recruited a Sanctuary 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration Team and is working on new safety guidelines to share with our members and visitors. Our Children, Youth, and Families team is working with Ministry Architects for some revamped Fall plans, along with the busy year-end calendar. And, I am putting the finishing touches on our upcoming worship series, Resurrection Revealed! Here's a bit more about that charted course of its own for our worship together...

This May we continue the post-Easter Sunday "Easter Season" in the church calendar with scriptures from

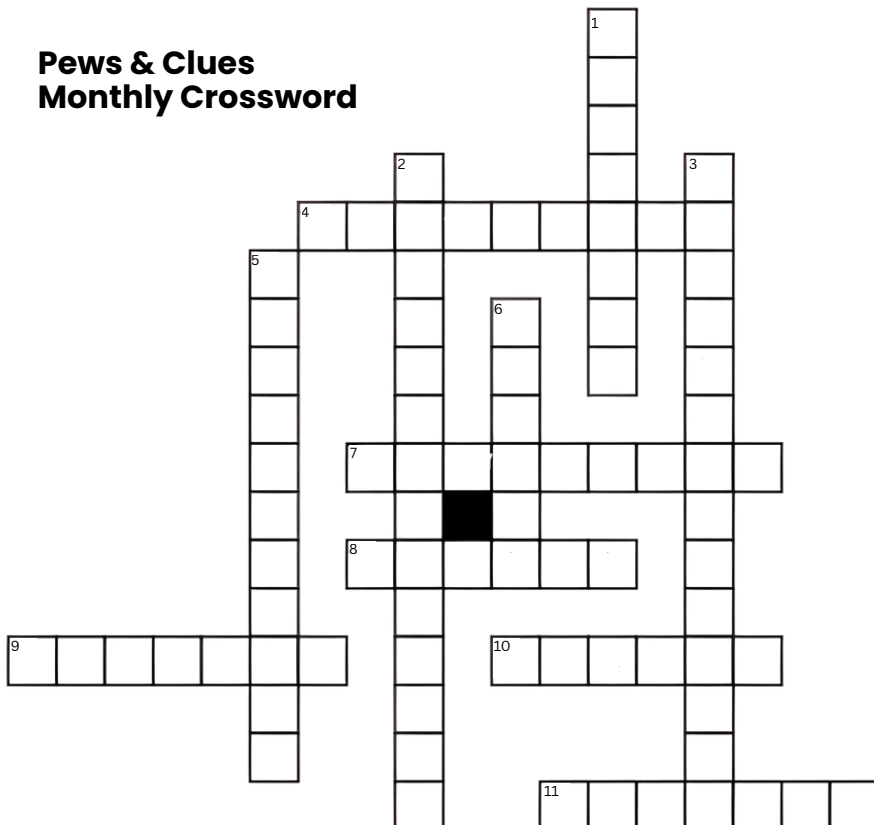
the Gospel of John. Resurrection Revealed will encourage us to learn how God is calling us to be open to the power of new life in Jesus Christ. This month we celebrate Marathon Sunday (6:55 A.M. Marathon Welcome, 8:30-ish A.M. Communion Service on the West Steps, and 10:00 A.M. Communion Service in the Chapel), Senior Sunday (May 17<sup>th</sup>), and the church days of Pentecost (May 24) and Trinity Sunday (May 31).

I know the post-Easter season can feel like a time to take a break from church, but at Westminster it's no slowdown! We continue to worship God and enjoy God together as a church and in our worship! I hope to see you in church this May!

With Gratitude,  
Pastor Chris

\*At Westminster we consider our "Program Year" the school calendar year, generally framing it from August Kick-Off and Blessing of the Backpacks through May's Graduate Recognition.

## Pews & Clues Monthly Crossword



### Across

4. We are an \_\_\_\_\_ congregation (2 words)
7. Day youth group meets
8. We received 73 boxes of this during our 5th Sunday drive
9. Name of the scholarship awarded each May
10. Day that Explorer's Bible Study meets
11. What we do on Sundays at 10 a.m.

### Down

1. Equal \_\_\_\_\_ Coffee is available for purchase on the 1st Sunday of the month
2. Name of our monthly book club that meets on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
3. Name of our knitting and crochet group that meets on Wednesdays
5. Event that takes place each July for kids
6. Place where adult ed meets

# WESTMINSTER PRESCHOOL

MAY 2026



## Look What We're Learning!

We are in the home stretch of the school year! April was all about Easter and celebrating the Week of the Young Child, while May will be celebrating our Kindergarten students and completing another successful year.

In the middle of May, all classrooms will spend another morning in an older classroom for Move-Up Day. We also want to take a week to acknowledge our teachers on Teacher Appreciation Week! Take a look at some of the themes we're learning about in May:

**STARFISH CLASSROOM:**  
**BIRDS & EGGS**

**BUMBLEBEE CLASSROOM:**  
**A TO ZOO**

**OWL CLASSROOM:**  
**HEALTH & FITNESS**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAY 4TH -8<sup>TH</sup> ---**  
**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

**MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> ----**  
**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

**MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> ----**  
**PRESCHOOL GRADUATION**

**MAY 20TH/21ST ----**  
**MARATHON & FAMILY PICNIC**

**MAY 21ST ----**  
**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!**



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## Upcoming Events and Important Dates

### Justice & Peace Calendar – May

\*Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month;  
[asianpacificheritage.gov](http://asianpacificheritage.gov)

**04–10** PW Together in Action Days for Children’s Literacy; [presbyterianwomen.org/justice](http://presbyterianwomen.org/justice) Children’s Book Week; [everychildareader.net/cbw](http://everychildareader.net/cbw)

**05** National Teacher Day; [nea.org](http://nea.org)

**09** World Fair Trade Day; [wfto.com](http://wfto.com)

**09** Stamp Out Hunger Day; [about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm](http://about.usps.com/corporate-social-responsibility/nalc-food-drive.htm)

**10** Mother’s Day

**15** Palestinian Nakba Remembrance Day;  
[un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba](http://un.org/unispal/about-the-nakba)

**22** International Day for Biological Diversity; [cbd.int/idb](http://cbd.int/idb)

**24** Pentecost; [pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/day-pentecost](http://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/theologyworship/worship/christian-year/day-pentecost)

**25** Memorial Day; [cem.va.gov/history/Memorial-Day-history.asp](http://cem.va.gov/history/Memorial-Day-history.asp)

### Explorers Bible Study | Library | Mondays 11:00 AM

Stop by the library at 11 a.m. on Mondays to join us for our discussion. We look forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome.

### Hearts and Hands | Library | Wednesdays 1 –3 PM

Hearts and Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wednesday in the church library. 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 at 402-730-9676

### Adult Ed on May 31

#### Moth-Butterfly

The Moth is a storytelling event where ordinary people tell true stories from their life.

Butterfly is Westminster’s version where our Christian friends tell stories from their lives that have impacted their life of faith.

On Sunday May 31 the butterfly makes a reappearance.

*Full May Adult Ed schedule listed on bottom of page 5*

### Equal Exchange Coffee Available for Purchase | Sunday, May 3

### Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, May 5 | 11:30 a.m. | Sakura Japanese Restaurant

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, May 5, 11:30 A.M., at Sakura Japanese Restaurant, 8600 S 30th St STE 106, Lincoln, NE 68516

**RSVP to [jimkinkennon@gmail.com](mailto:jimkinkennon@gmail.com) or text 402-290-5888**

### Faith & Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, May 19 | 10:00 AM | Church Library

### Ladies Night Out | Tuesday, May 19 | 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. | L’s Kitchen

Join us for Ladies Night Out at L’S KITCHEN 17th & Van Dorn. Please note later time, due to the restaurant dinner hour). Everyone is welcome!

<https://lskitchenlincoln.com/>

### Prairie Readers | Wednesday, May 20 | 1:00 PM

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!

### 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 this day, Westminster volunteers will work side-by-side in our church parking lot from 9:00 AM–1:00 PM to build 20 beds for children in the Lincoln community who currently do not have beds of their own. All tools, materials, and safety equipment will be provided, and a bedding drive will be held in conjunction with the build to help ensure each child receives a fully furnished bed. Volunteers of all ages and skill levels are welcome, and no prior experience is required. Volunteer registration will open in May 18, 2026. To signup: Contact: Paul Korslund ([paulkorslund@gmail.com](mailto:paulkorslund@gmail.com)) or Gary Haller ([garyhaller70@att.net](mailto:garyhaller70@att.net)) Please save the date and plan to be part of this meaningful day of service.

–Mission & Social Witness Committee

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## Calling all Artists and Crafters of Westminster!!

Art comes in many forms and we wish to discover and celebrate the artistic talents coming from within our church. The Westminster Art Committee is planning a WPC Art and Crafts Show on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>. Saturday, the show will be from 4:30 to 7:00 and Sunday from 9:00 to noon. We need artists and crafters to show off your talents in any genre. Items can be just for "show and tell" or can be offered For Sale. Set up is early afternoon of June 6<sup>th</sup> followed by an Open House reception and the dismantling of the show will be between 12 and 1:30 on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Participants will need to complete an application and turn it in by May 24<sup>th</sup> so enough space can be planned. Blank application forms can be found by the display cabinets at the top of the stairs at the East Entrance. Completed forms are to be put in the drop box at the same location. An online link to the application will be in the E-Vine. Any questions, please contact a member of the WPC Art Committee: Jim Kinkennon, Valery Wachter, Joyce Douglas, Marilyn Maude or Susie Hughes

## It's Time Again for the PW Birthday Offering

Giving to the PW Birthday Offering is a springtime tradition for Presbyterian Women. Since 1922 grants from this offering have funded capital investments such as clean water projects, rural medical centers, prison ministries for women, shelters for children, and so much more. Presbyterian Women have helped carry the message of God's joy by offering tangible symbols of God's abundance through this impactful grant program.

The 2026 Birthday Offering Recipients are:

\* Martha's Home - renovation for homeless women and their families in Findlay, Ohio

\* Rural Food Assistance Project - equip a commercial kitchen for outreach in Haywood County, North Carolina.

Presbyterian Women at Westminster will collect and dedicate this special offering at their May Circle Meetings.

## 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.

## Thank You to our Volunteers!

Thanks to everyone who showed up to help us pack meals at the Orphan Grain Train!! We planned on packing 2500 but topped out at 5616 meals! They are shipping this batch of meals to Haiti -- thanks for supporting our mission work!



## Kick Off-Sunday and Blessing of the Backpacks

### Save the Date!

Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>!

Blessing of the Backpacks during 10:00am Worship  
Kick-Off Lunch and Activities Following!

## Adult Ed Schedule for May

**May 3:** No Adult Ed

**May 10:** No Adult Ed (Mother's Day)

**May 17:** David Johnson from Sleep in Heavenly Peace will speak about the upcoming bed build at Westminster on Saturday, June 13 (needing 45-50 builders).

**May 24 (Pentecost):** Memorial Day Weekend, no Adult Ed

**May 31 (Trinity Sunday):** The Butterfly led by Tom Pappas, stories of faith by Westminster members.

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# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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## Kid's Corner - Celebrate Mother's Day

# ALL ABOUT MY

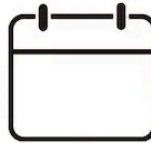
# MOM



Her name is

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

She is



years old

Her job is..



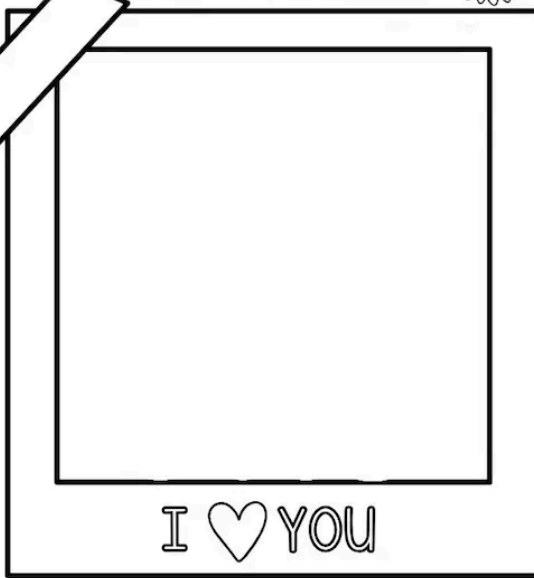
☆☆☆☆☆  
Her Favorites

Drink:

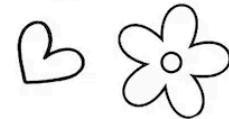
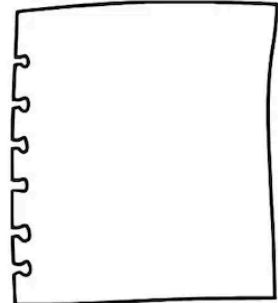
Food:

Hobby:

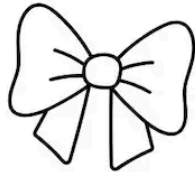
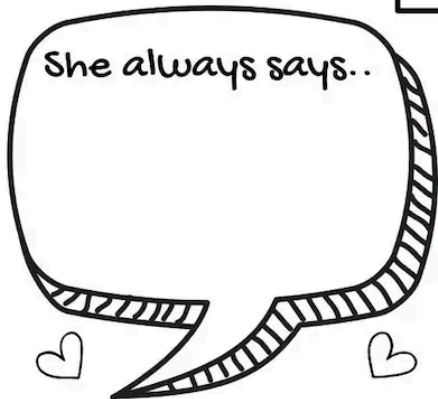
Her Portrait 



She makes me giggle when..



She always says..



I love when we spend time..



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## Youth News

### **W3 Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays: Fellowship, Fun, and Faith 5:30 PM–8:00 PM**

Our mid-week gathering every Wednesday night provides a fantastic and consistent opportunity for children and teenagers to connect with their peers in a safe, engaging, and faith-filled environment. It's a key part of our weekly ministry designed to help young people build strong friendships and grow in their understanding of God.

### **A Structured Evening of Activities:**

The core programming for our Youth Group runs from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and is open to children and teens ranging from kindergarten through high school. The evening is carefully planned to balance high-energy activities with meaningful spiritual instruction and discussion.

### **Early Arrival and Fellowship (Optional):**

For those who wish to arrive early, the facility opens at 5:30 PM. This pre-program time is designated for open gym and free time, allowing kids to burn off energy, socialize, and casually connect with friends before the structured activities begin.

### **Dinner and Community:**

A vital part of our gathering is sharing a meal together. A full dinner is served at 6:00 PM sharp. This communal meal fosters a sense of family and belonging, ensuring that all participants are nourished and ready to focus on the evening's lessons and activities.

### **What Kids Experience:**

Each age group participates in tailored programming, including age-appropriate Bible lessons, small group discussions led by caring adult mentors, and engaging games that reinforce the evening's theme. Our goal is for every child and teen to leave feeling valued, encouraged, and more deeply rooted in their faith. Parents are encouraged to join us for dinner at 6:00 PM for a time of fellowship.

### **Marathon Support | Sunday, May 3 @ 7:00 AM**

The Annual Lincoln Marathon is a highly anticipated event, and its course passes directly by Westminster Presbyterian Church, presenting a wonderful

opportunity for our congregation to engage with the community and extend our hospitality. All Westminster members are enthusiastically invited to participate in this outreach effort by staffing a dedicated welcome table. This station will be a vital point of encouragement for both runners and spectators. We plan to distribute essential refreshments, including freshly prepared donut holes for a quick energy boost, plenty of bottled water and Gatorade to ensure proper hydration, and bananas, which are excellent sources of potassium. This act of service not only supports the participants of the marathon but also allows us to showcase the warm, welcoming spirit of Westminster to the wider Lincoln community. Please consider joining us before the worship service to help make this year's marathon presence our most successful yet!



### **Senior Sunday | May 17 @ 10:00 AM**

Join us in worship on Sunday, May 17 as we recognize and celebrate our graduating seniors.

### **VBS: Roadtrip! | July 13–17 @ 9:00 AM–12:30 PM**

It's time to get your kids registered for VBS! Registration is \$15/child (\$45 max/family) before May 31. Register now at

Note: We are collaborating with Good Shepherd Presbyterian again this year and sessions will be held at Westminster, 2110 Sheridan Blvd.

Questions? Contact Trish Souliere by email, [trish@westminsterlincoln.org](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org), or by text or phone, 402-570-0163.

### **Synod School | July 26–31**

Storm Lake, Iowa

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages in an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.

# WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
2110 Sheridan Blvd  
Lincoln, NE 68502

**Thank You for a Successful Cereal Drive!**

Our Palm Sunday, 5th 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 & other items every Sunday for our pantry. The next fifth Sunday is in May- who knows what item we will select. Thanks again!

**Camp Calvin Crest this Summer!**

Online summer camp registration is open NOW, so hurry to reserve a spot for your camper! Campers connect with God... in outdoor worship spaces, during small group bible studies, through 'Jesus and Me' quiet times, around the campfire, & by being in God's beautiful nature. Campers connect with others... on the trails, at table during meals & snacks, in the pool & during games, in the craft cabin, & while they make new friends that might just last a lifetime! Go to [www.calvincrest.camp](http://www.calvincrest.camp) for dates and to view the three-tiered pricing options to fit your budget. AND did you know Westminster is committed to supporting its youth by giving \$50 towards their camper fee? Call Joanne Gabriel in the church office with questions, and get 'em out there!

**Camp Calvin Crest Schedule**

Explorer Camp #01	June 5-7
<u>Week Two</u>	
Junior Camp #21	June 7-12
Junior Ranch Camp #25R	June 7-12
<u>Week Three</u>	
Junior Camp #22	June 14-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o RC Cars</li> <li>o Archery</li> <li>o Horses</li> </ul>	
Junior High Camp #31	June 14-19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ukeulele</li> <li>o Rocketry</li> <li>o Horses</li> </ul>	
Family Camp #51F	June 20-21
<u>Week Four</u>	
Junior High Camp #32	June 21-26
Junior High Ranch Camp #35R	June 21-26
<u>Week Five</u>	
Middler Camp #12	June 28-July 1
Senior High Work Camp #41	June 28-July 4