

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER



The Messenger

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VBS 2026



"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"

Matthew 19:14

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

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AUGUST 2026

VOLUME 96 ISSUE 8

A Note From Pastor Chris

Westminster Friends,

As we move into our program year, we look ahead to a wonderful fall 'program' semester ahead, which will culminate with our 100th Sanctuary 'Birthday Party' Celebration on Sunday, December 6th! I hope you'll also mark your calendars for August 9th, our annual Blessing of the Backpacks in worship, *and* August 16th, our first monthly "Westminster Kids Big Sunday" during the worship hour! Big Sunday will feature fun, bible learning, games, and great supervision by a team in our Faith Village classrooms. Invites will be going out to families soon. Big Sundays are co-sponsored by Westminster's Children, Youth, and Families Committee and Ministry Architects Children and Youth Implementation Team. If you have a kiddo K-5th, we hope you'll join us for Big Sunday, KidCon on 8/16!

More broadly, this fall we will roll out our new Vision and Values statements, three-year Churchwide Goals, and a new Volunteer Structure that consolidates ministry-area leadership while inviting more people into joyful service at Westminster and in our community! During the program year of August – May we'll also introduce a new logo and branding, and learn next steps recommendations from our Property Discernment Team after Session approval! With joy, we're entering a season of landing 'who we are' for the start of our 'next 100 years' at Westminster!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- 06** Nuclear Victims' and Survivors' Day;
pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/august-6-2020
- 09** International Day of the World's Indigenous People;
un.org/en/observances/indigenous-day
- 09** Day of Prayer for the Peaceful Reunification of the Korean Peninsula; pcusa.org/worship-with-us/yearbook/june-24-2018
- 19** World Humanitarian Day;
un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day

Adult Ed Series for August:

August 2: no Adult Education

August 9: Kick Off Sunday

August 16: Westminster Youth Mission and Fun Trip, sharing their experiences from the June adventure.

August 23: Restoring Westminster's stained glass windows, Jim White and a representative from the team of artisans will enlighten us

August 30: Vaccine Science, Westminster's Martha Brown, Project Manager at Zoetis, will share her experience in vaccine development with us

Explorers Bible Study

Explorers Bible Study will take a break for the summer. We will resume Monday, September 14.

Hearts and Hands | Library | Wednesdays 1 – 3 PM

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

Lunch Bunch | Tuesday, August 4 | Early Bird

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Tues., Aug. 4, 11:30 AM, at Early Bird, 1900 K Street. R.S.V.P. to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

Faith & Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, August 18 | 10:00 AM | Church Library

Prairie Readers | Wednesday, August 19 | 1:00 PM

Prairie Readers will meet on August 19 at 1 PM in the lounge. Linda Burchard will lead the discussion of *The Emperor of Gladness* by Ocean Vuong. The book is a story of unexpected friendships and the gift of a second chance. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

Ladies Night Out | Tuesday, August 25 | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Billy's Restaurant

Ladies, you are welcome to join us Tuesday, August 25th 5–7 PM at Billy's Restaurant 1301 H St. We have a prearranged price of \$17/person, additional cost for drink, tax, and tip. Nader prepares an assortment of dishes for our group served family style. You are welcome to order off their menu to suit your tastes and dietary needs.

Pastoral Care Cell Phone: 531-510-4929

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Gather Us In – Presbyterian Women Annual Kickoff Saturday, August 22 | 9:30 a.m.

All women of Westminster are invited to the Presbyterian Women Annual Kickoff on Saturday, August 22, at 9:30 a.m. in Cole Hall (lower level). Join us for a morning of fellowship over coffee and refreshments as we remember our Honor Circle 1 Presbyterian Women, preview the 2026–2027 Horizons Bible Study, and participate in a hands-on mission project. Please bring personal hygiene items to donate to the Lincoln Hygiene Network collection barrel. Presbyterian Women gather with commitment to nurture our faith, support the mission of the church, work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive caring community of women. Questions? Contact Linda Burchard (lindajburchard@gmail.com)

Sanctuary Change

Submitted by Susie Hughes



The story of our Westminster Church building continues and today's feature is the story about the stained-glass window in the Garden Room. When the sanctuary was built, the chancel back wall was a simple but elegant carved, three paneled wall that served to complement and frame the worship space. Because the chancel is the visual and spiritual focus of the sanctuary, the wall behind it matters. It is where our attention naturally gathers during prayer, preaching, communion, and holy days. In 1972, a generous gift was received to replace the three existing panels with a beautiful new backlit stained-glass panel. This panel allowed a sense of

light to be present in every season and at every time of day, offering a consistent visual reminder of God's presence among us. Existing pictures show a theater type curtain. The picture in this article was taken for the 1971–72 music yearbook.

Twenty years later, during a Session meeting, a motion was made to restore the chancel wall back to its original design. The motion was passed at the January 25, 1993 meeting with this reading: "The Board of Trustees recommends the Session support the restoration of the chancel wall and the stained glass behind the communion table be used in a location where its beauty can be truly appreciated, following consultation with the congregation." The congregation met on April 26 and the restoration was completed by the October 25, 1993, Session meeting.

Today the stained glass proudly sits in a place of prominence in the Garden Room for all to view on the way to our 100-year-old sanctuary. There is a plaque on the side of the stained-glass piece. Stop by and find out who donated it and read the full description of each section.

Youth News

Westminster at the Theater: Magic Awaits! Join Us for "Cinderella" at the Lofte Theatre! | August 2

The timeless enchantment of a magical fairy tale is being reborn right in our backyard! The Westminster Children, Youth & Family Committee invites you to join us for a group outing to see Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella at the Lofte Community Theatre in Manley, Nebraska. Brimming with the legendary duo's hallmarks of charm and elegance, this beautiful musical holds a special place in history. Originally presented on television in 1957 starring Julie Andrews, it became the most widely viewed program in the history of the medium. Now, you can experience that same magic live on stage with your Westminster community.

Event Details

- When: Sunday, August 2nd at 2:00 p.m.
- Where: Lofte Community Theatre (15841 Manley Rd. Manley, NE — just a scenic 37-mile drive from Westminster).
- Pre-Show Treats: Concessions will be open for purchase. Want to make a day of it? A delicious lunch is also available for purchase starting at 1:00 p.m. (while food lasts!).

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Westminster
Presbyterian Church
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Splashtacular Fun: Join Us for our End-of-Summer Pool Party! | August 5

New Venue Alert! Take note: we are switching things up this year! While we usually host this event at Star City Shores, we are moving the party to a fantastic new spot.

Eden Pool has something for everyone in the family to enjoy:

- The Thrill-Seekers: Race down the twists and turns of the water slide!
- The Daredevils: Show off your best cannonball or dive off the diving board.
- The Little Ones: A dedicated wading and baby pool perfect for safe, shallow splashing.
- The Loungers: Plenty of space to hang out on the deck, chat, and cheer on the swimmers.

There is no better way to wrap up the summer than surrounded by great music, refreshing water, and even better company. We can't wait to see you all on deck!

Mark Your Calendars: Wednesday, August 5th from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Eden Pool, 4400 Antelope Creek Rd.

Upcoming Youth Events

Sunday, August 2nd – Westminster at the Lofte Theater @ 2 p.m.

Wednesday, August 5th – End of Summer Pool Party 6:30 PM to 8 PM at Eden Pool

Sunday, August 9th – Blessing of the Backpacks/Kick-Off Sunday

Wednesday, August 12th – Wednesday Nights Return! W3 Resumes

August 14th – 15th – Youth Group: Back to Church Retreat

August Art Display – Travels with Tami

Westminster member, Tami Wellmann, has found God in all her travels. Her photos will take you to many of the 60 countries she has visited. Travel with Tami to Morocco, Greece, Russia, Canada, Scotland and many more. The countries she has visited are comprised of people just like what we find in the United States. People looking for their place in this world. She was moved by Pastor Jimmy's sermon on July 12th and the parable of sowing seeds. It made her think about God not just sowing for us...but for lands far and wide—The World in which We Live. You will enjoy her photos on display as our Artist of the Month for August.