

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

August 9, 2026

11th Sunday after Pentecost



Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937. Disciples See Christ Walking on the Water, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/55904> [retrieved August 6, 2026]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Henry_Ossawa_Tanner,_The_Disciples_See_Christ_Walking_on_the_Water,_c._1907.jpg

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

"Blessed Assurance" by J. Bert Carlson

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 85:8-13, Common English Bible)

Jaime Hemmerling

One: Let me hear what the Lord God says...

All: God speaks peace to the people.

One: The Lord gives what is good!

All: Righteousness walks before God, making a road for God's steps.

*Hymn #401

Here in This Place (verses 1, 2 & 4)

*Call to Confession

Jaime Hemmerling

*Prayer of Confession

God our refuge, you hear our cries for mercy. You know our exhaustion, our cynicism, our sense of defeat. You lift the lowly and offer hope to the hopeless. But we are quick to lose perspective, criticize, and complain. We confess the ways we are tempted to give up on the path of righteousness. Forgive and renew us, that we might step out in faith, trusting Jesus in all things...

*Time of Silent Confession

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

*Declaration of Forgiveness

Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

*Response of Praise #551

Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy;

Christ, have mercy;

Lord, have mercy upon us. (x2)

*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.

May the peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

Blessing of the Backpacks

The Sacrament of Baptism

Hudson Mark Schuerman

Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Question of the Congregation

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to love and nurture Hudson, to provide for his Christian Education, to set an example of faithfulness, and to welcome him as a member of the body of Christ, the family of faith?

All: We do. Hudson, we welcome you with joy and hope, energy and enthusiasm, laughter and communion, nurture and faith, love and acceptance.

Hymn #486

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verses 1 & 4)

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.***

Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's call.

Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:22-33

N.T. pg. 16

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

Sermon

"The Work of Jesus: Assurance"

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn #839

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!

Invitation to the Offering

Jaime Hemmerling

Offertory Special Music

"He is Exalted" with "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"
arr. Camp Kirkland and Richard Kingsmore

Summer Choir with Jon Jackson, Bass Guitar & Kent Hemmerling, Drums

*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.***

Prayers of Thanksgiving and the People / 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.

***Hymn #488**

I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

"I Must Tell Jesus" by Larry Shackley

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook: Order of Worship for August 9, 2026*, Rev. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook.

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: Jaime Hemmerling

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Stephanie Rogers, Scott Rogers, Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Joyce Douglas, Joan Roberts, Marilyn Hood, Marybell Avery

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter





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

The week of Aug. 9, 2026

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

Fall Kick-Off Sunday is Today

Following the service, we'll keep the momentum going with food, fellowship, and a chance to get a sneak peek at everything we have in store for our children, youth, and adult ministries this semester. It takes a village to raise a generation of faith, and Kick-Off Sunday is the perfect moment to plug back into the community, meet our dedicated group leaders, and find out how you can get involved. Let's start this new year strong!

Farewell Reception for Dennis

Stop by the Garden Room after worship today to thank Dennis Rohren for his service to Westminster over the past 6 ½ years as our bookkeeper and to wish him well on his next venture! Thank you, Dennis!

KidCon: Out of This World Fun! | Sunday August 16 10:00 AM

Come experience KidCon, an exciting adventure where kids grow in faith and make lasting memories. Enjoy a video challenge, games in the gym, an engaging Bible message video, and a space-themed journey that ends with an epic egg drop activity!

Adult Ed | Sundays | 11:15 AM | Lounge

Aug. 9: No Adult Ed

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

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

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

Westminster Community Sing Invitation | Aug. 30

Have you ever sung in a choir before, or would you maybe like to give it a try? Here is your perfect opportunity! On Sunday, August 30, we are opening up the choir loft to everyone of

ALL AGES! Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or just love singing in the shower, you are officially invited to join us for a wonderful morning of music making. There are absolutely no strings attached, no long-term commitments, and no auditions. This morning is purely about the joy of lifting our voices and having fun singing together as a community.

We will gather for a quick, relaxed rehearsal at 9:00 AM to learn the music, and then we will sing together during the 10:00 AM worship service. Bring a friend, bring your enthusiasm, and let's fill the sanctuary with a beautiful bunch of voices on August 30. We cannot wait to sing with you!

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 who are 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.

Prairie Readers in August

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.

Gather Us In

WHY: It's the Annual Kickoff

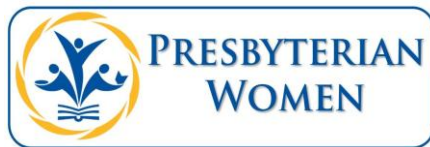
WHO: Presbyterian Women at Westminster and any women who belong to Westminster

WHEN: Saturday, August 22 at 9:30 AM

WHERE: Cole Hall (in the lower level)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN:

- Fellowship with coffee and refreshments
- Remembering our Honor Circle 1 PW's
- Overview of the 2026-2027 Horizon's Bible Study
- Hands-on mission project



Bring personal hygiene items for the LINCOLN HYGIENE NETWORK 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)

Nebraska Legislature Candidates on the Environment

The members of our state legislature are increasingly faced with complicated decisions that involve our stewardship of the environment. Here is a good opportunity to learn more about those complications and our future leaders' thoughts about dealing with them. **On Tuesday, August 25, 6:30-8:00**, there will be an Environmental Candidates Forum at the Unitarian Church. This will feature a panel of candidates for the Nebraska Legislature districts in and around Lincoln, presenting their thoughts on various environmental issues.

Back Pew Gardeners – Volunteers Needed

Many hands make light work! Please consider joining us as we work together to keep our church grounds looking their best. No gardening experience is necessary.

This week's to do list (Aug. 9 - 15):

South Street:

- Chapel wall - Remove the climbing ivy

Circle Drive

- Loggia Wall - Remove Climbing ivy

Hosta La Vista

- Remove milk weed vines, soap weeds, tree of Heaven

All Stripes: 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 North and South side

- Cut Silver Sage down (easier to do with a hedge trimmer)

Ryons Street

- Clean up the Linden Seeds
- R4 & R5 - remove the weeds and rake the Linden seeds out.

Driveway to Garden Room

- Clean leaves and weeds along westside of driveway

If you have gardening gloves or hand tools, feel free to bring them. For questions, contact Tom Pappas (402)202-4454 or Gary Haller (817)757-2980. Keep track of your time and send your total volunteer time, along with what you worked on, to Gary at garyhaller70@att.net. Thank you for helping to keep our church grounds beautiful!

Pastoral Care Cell Phone: 531-510-4929

If you are a member and have a need for pastoral care, such as a bereavement or hospitalization, call 531-510-4929. One of the pastors will answer or get back to you.

Staff Schedules

Pastor Jimmy is on loan today for pulpit supply at the Freemont Presbyterian Church.

Week Beginning Aug. 9

<u>Sun. (Aug. 9)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary Kick-Off Sunday/Backpacks 11:15 AM Farewell Reception for Dennis Rohren 12 PM Sudanese Worship	<u>Wed. (Aug. 12)</u> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library
<u>Mon. (Aug. 10)</u> 6:30 PM Children, Youth & Family, Zoom 7 PM Recovery Group, Library	<u>Fri. (Aug. 14)</u> Youth Group Retreat at Calvin Crest through Sat. morning
<u>Tues. (Aug. 11)</u> 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5 PM Church Life, Conf. Room 5 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 5:30 PM Worship, M & FA, FH 6 PM Mission & Social Witness, Lounge 6:15 PM A&P, Conf. Room	<u>Sat., (Aug. 15)</u> 9 AM Homestead Presbytery, Calvin Crest
	<u>Sun. (Aug. 16)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 10 AM WPC Kids Big Sunday— KidCon! 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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