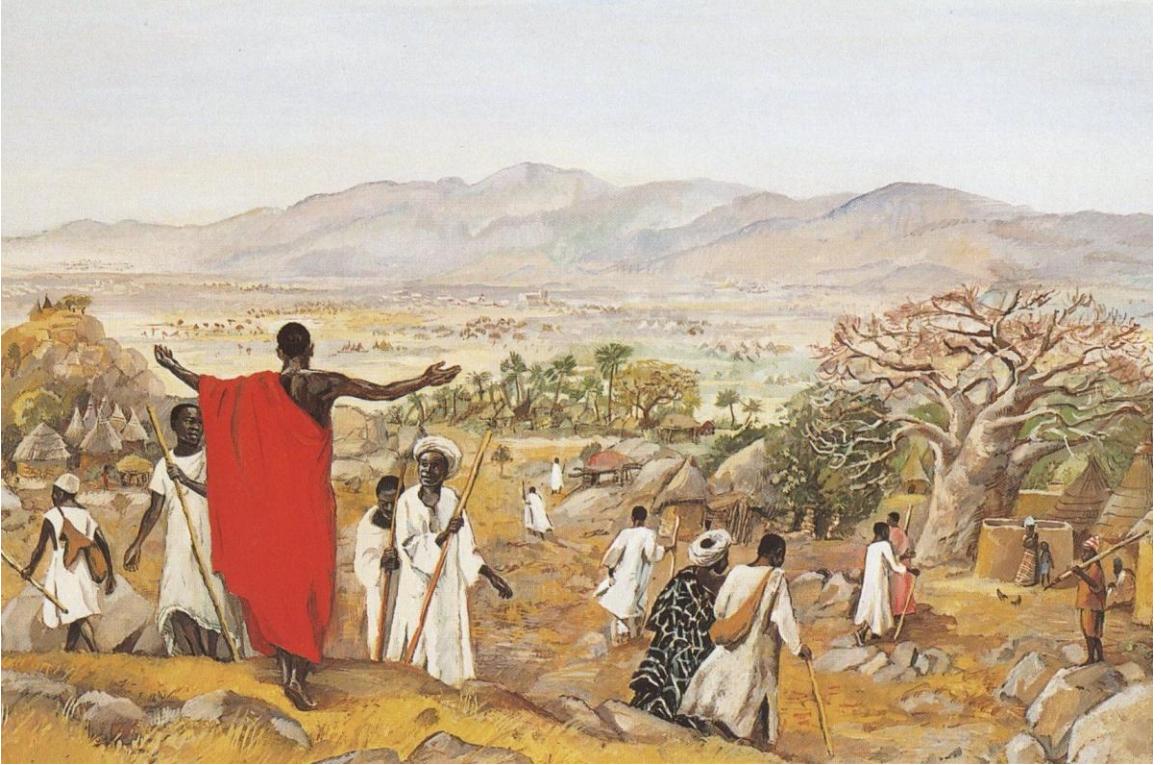


Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

August 16, 2026

12th Sunday after Pentecost



Jesus sends disciples to serve with full hearts.

JESUS MAFA. The mission to the world, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/48314> [retrieved August 13, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr>

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

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” by Joe Utterback

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

***Call to Worship** (inspired by Isaiah 56:1, 7-8)

Deacon Joan Roberts

One: The Lord says: Act justly and do what is righteous,

Many: Because my salvation is coming soon,

One: And my righteousness will be revealed.

Many: My house will be known as a house of prayer for all peoples,

One: Says the Lord God, who gathers Israel's outcasts.

Many: Let us worship our Lord, who opens our hearts to welcome all.

***Hymn #692**

Spirit, Open My Heart

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess we have not been obedient to your will. We have sought justice for ourselves but neglected justice for others. We have insisted on our own rights but have not lived rightly in our relationships. We have desired mercy for our sins, but we have not offered mercy to those who have sinned against us. By the power of your Spirit, renew us. Help us to love as you have loved us. Amen.

***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. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 56:1-8

O.T. pg. 686

Gospel Reading

Matthew 15:10-28

N.T. pg. 17

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

Sermon

“The Work of Jesus: Direction”

Rev. Chris Peters

*Hymn #462

I Love to Tell the Story

Prayers of the People / The Lord’s Prayer

Deacon Joan Roberts

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.

Ministry Architects Implementation Update: Volunteer Recruitment

Gary Haller & Kathy Rohwedder

Invitation to the Offering

Deacon Joan Roberts

Offertory Special Music

“Soon and Very Soon” arr. Jack Schrader Summer

Bass Clef 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

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Hymn #702

Christ Be Beside Me

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” by Michael Burkhardt

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today’s liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A Vol. 2, Proper 15*. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor.

Fun fact: Dr. Long was Pastor’s Chris’s professor for a seminary class on Occasional Services, which enriched his practical theology toward funerals, weddings, ordinations, and worship broadly.

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 Joan Roberts

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Joyce Douglas, Marilyn Hood

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, 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 Aug. 16, 2026

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

Adult Ed | Sundays | 11:15 AM | Lounge

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: "Vaccines: Beyond the Ouch!" 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 Sun., Aug. 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 AM to learn the music, and then we will sing together during the 10 AM worship service. The QR code takes you to the music. Bring a friend, bring your enthusiasm, and let's fill the sanctuary with a beautiful bunch of voices on Aug. 30. We cannot wait to sing with you!



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.

Wednesday Nights Return! W3 Resumes on August 19!

Westminster resumes its mid-week W3 program for kindergarten through 12th-grade students on Aug. 19, offering a space for faith, community, and connection. The evening

features open gym at 5:30 PM, a community dinner at 6 PM, and age-specific activities from 6:30 PM to 8 PM, with all community members welcome to attend. We can't wait to fill the building with laughter, energy, and community once again.

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.

Forks & Friends - Westminster Table Adventure

Forks & Friends has been in effect since May & it has been a fun & successful endeavor. Once a month 3 different groups have gathered around a table to connect & share food. It's amazing how you get to really know someone when you are in a small group enjoying a meal or snack. The focus is to have this be an easy, flexible experience & share the planning & preparation with the host. After 4 months all names go in a basket & the hosts meet to draw new members. Rotating gives everyone an opportunity to connect with more people.

Church Life is extending an invitation to you to join Forks & Friends - A Westminster Table Adventure. Groups will be kept small, 5-8 people, to be able to fit around a table. Please contact Marilyn Hood by phone or text at 402-499-9045 or email at mhood0529@gmail.com to let us know you would like to join.

Gather Us In

WHY: It's the Annual Kickoff

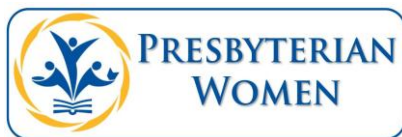
WHO: Presbyterian Women at Westminster and any women who belong to Westminster

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)

Study of Romans

Explore Paul's Letter to the Church at Rome. Have you ever wondered what Paul's message was all about? Join others on Mondays beginning Sept. 14 at 11 AM in digging into the book of Romans.

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 list can be found in the tote with lawn bags.)

This week's to do list (Aug. 16 - 22):

South Street:

- Playground - Remove milk weed, weed vine, cut Euonymus to 6 inches

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

- Cut Silver Sage down to 6 inches (easier to do with a hedge trimmer)

Ryons Street

- Clean up the Linden Seeds
- R2 & R3 - remove the weeds, rake Linden seeds out, cut sucker trees.

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!

September Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, September 1, 11:30 A.M., at Big Red Restaurant, 8933 Andermatt Drive. That's the East location.

R.S.V.P. to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

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 or text 531-510-4929. One of the pastors will answer or get back to you.

Week Beginning Aug. 16

<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	<u>Wed. (Aug. 19)</u> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 5:30 PM W3 Wed. Activities 5:30 PM Leadership Meeting with Ministry Architects, FH
<u>Tues. (Aug. 18)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Faith & Cancer Support Group, Library	<u>Sat., (Aug. 22)</u> 9:30 AM PW Fall Kick-Off, Cole H <u>Sun. (Aug. 23)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 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>