

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

August 23, 2026

13th Sunday after Pentecost



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

“Prelude & Fugue in D Major” by Antonín Dvořák

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Thank You: Rhonda Obermeier

***Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 124, CEB and NRSVue)

Deacon Claire Titus

One: If it had not been for the Lord, they would have swallowed us up whole!

Many: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: Bless the Lord, for the Lord did not hand us over!

Many: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

One: We escaped like a bird from the snare of the hunters. The snare is broken, and we have escaped!

Many: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

***Hymn #649**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Forgiving God, we confess that we worship, but our hearts wander. You call us to do justice, but we treat others as less-than-me. You call us to care for the abandoned, but we turn to look away. You call us to show mercy, but we belittle others rather than lifting them up. Lord, have mercy upon us. Center our hearts in mercy. Center our lives in peace. Center our ways in righteousness. In Christ we pray...

***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

Exodus 1:8 – 2:20

O.T. pg. 49

Today's scripture will be divided up throughout the sermon in the following manner:

Exodus 1:1-14, Exodus 1:15-21, Exodus 1:22-2 :4, and Exodus: 2:5-10

Holy wisdom. Holy word. ***Thanks be to God.***

Sermon

“The Exodus Saga, Part I: Shiphrah and Puah”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Prayers of the People / The Lord's Prayer

Deacon Claire Titus

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 Summit Recap

Gary Haller & Kathy Rohwedder

Invitation to the Offering

Deacon Claire Titus

Offertory Special Music

“I Will Sing New Songs of Gladness” by Antonín Dvořák
Steve Hughes, soloist

***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 #637**

O Sing to the Lord

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“In a Ring” from *Two Little Pearls* by Antonín Dvořák

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's Prayer of Confession, is written by Pastor Chris. Other liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A Vol. 2, Proper 16 Complimentary Lectionary Tests*. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor.

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 Claire Titus

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Marilyn Smith, Valery Wachter, Josh Swanson

Ushers: Rohn Loyd, Becky Bockrath, Bruce Sheffield, Margaret Sheffield

Dishwashers: Gary & Glenna Haller

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter





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

The week of Aug. 23, 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. 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.

Sept. 6: No Adult Ed (Labor Day)

Sept. 13: "GA 227 - What the Heck Does it Mean and Why Does it Matter?" with Pastor Chris! Pastor Chris served at the PC(USA) General Assembly (or, "GA") this past June as a voting commissioner and also stood for the denominational-level position of Co-Moderator. Hear about his experience, overtures and decisions you should know, and ask questions!

Next Sunday is the 5th Sunday

Let's support Westminster's Food Pantry by bringing soup or SpaghettiOs on Aug. 30. Bring your donations and place them in the wooden box by the office. Thank you.

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!



Parent Kickoff Meeting: Partnering in Faith & Fellowship

As we launch a new program year, we invite all parents to join us on Wednesday, August 26 for an evening of connection, community, and vision. We will share exciting details about upcoming activities and programs while exploring meaningful ways we can partner with you in your child's spiritual growth.

It's also a great opportunity to ask questions, share a few laughs over games, and meet other parents in our church community.

Schedule of Events:

- 5:30 PM – Open Gym
- 6:00 PM – Dinner
- 6:30 PM – Parent Meeting & Activities

Feel free to come for any or all of the evening—we would love to see you there!

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.

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.

Study of Romans

Why didn't Paul go to Rome to preach? Why was there a conflict between groups in Rome? These and other questions will be explored this fall in a new study on the book of Romans, a letter written by the Apostle Paul to Christians in Rome. Mondays, beginning Sept. 14 at 11 AM in the library.

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

This week's to do list (Aug. 23 - 29):

Preschool:

- Clean up weeds – milk weed & vines
- Cut Euonymus down 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

- Rake up the Linden Seeds
- R3 - remove weeds – sucker trees – all-in-all a major clean-up

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!

Ladies' Night Out

Join us at Billy's Restaurant (1301 H Street) for good food and conversation on Tues., Aug. 25 from 5-7 PM! We would love to have a seat at the table for you; please RSVP to robynu2@hotmail.com by Sunday, August 23. Feel free to bring a friend. Questions or suggestions please email, text, or call Robyn 937/935-6858.

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, Sept. 1, 11:30 AM, 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.

Week Beginning Aug. 23

<u>Sun. (Aug. 23)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship	4:30 PM Centennial Celebration Committee, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wed. Activities, Parent Kick-Off Meeting
<u>Mon. (Aug. 24)</u> 6 PM Session, Lounge	<u>Thurs. (Aug. 27)</u> 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge
<u>Tues. (Aug. 25)</u> 5 PM Ladies' Night Out, Billy's 5:30 PM Deacons, Lounge	<u>Sun. (Aug. 30)</u> 10 AM Worship, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship
<u>Wed. (Aug. 26)</u> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library	

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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