

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost



Swanson, John August. Moses, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/56554> [retrieved September 24, 2026]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

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

“Divertimento in G” by Joseph Haydn

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Moment for Mission – World Communion Offering

Carolyn Harp

***Call to Worship** (inspired by Exodus 17:7, Psalm 78:4,7)

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

One: Praise the Lord who is our provider.

All: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

One: God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

All: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

One: Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are God’s acts.

All: The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

***Hymn #370**

This Is My Father’s World

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Almighty God, we have been wandering in the wilderness of sin. We have complained in the face of your mercy. We have taken for granted the gift of your creation, allowing greed to lead to neglect. We have allowed our own desire for more to guide our treatment of the gifts of the world around us. Teach us humility. Teach us gratitude. Infuse your spirit into our beings so that we might be reconciled to you. In Jesus’ name we pray. 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 #437**

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

***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. At this time, children in K-5th Grade are invited to be dismissed to Faith Village, our children's education time.

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

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm Reading

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

O.T. pg. 537

Hebrew Scripture

Exodus 17:1-7

O.T. pg. 64

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

Sermon "The Exodus Saga, Part VI: Water from a Rock"

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #71**

Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me (verses 1-2)

Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

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 Update: Financial Strategy

Steve Hughes & Emily Killham

Invitation to the Offering

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

Offertory Choir Anthem

"The Heavens are Telling"

from *The Creation* by Joseph Haydn

Max Bower, Ryan Roberts, and Maddie Stolcpart, trio; John Ross, organ

"The Heavens Are Telling" reminds us that all creation proclaims the glory of God. In the Season of Creation, we join that song of praise and gratitude for the world God has made.

***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.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

*Hymn #31

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Allegro in F” by Joseph Haydn

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion, Year A Vol. 2, Proper 20 Semicontinuous Lectionary*. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor. Today's Prayer of Confession is re-written from that source by Psalter Chris to help our words of worship better reflect this fall Season of Creation / Creation Celebration.

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 Sarah Baltensperger

Music: Wes Hansmeyer, Westminster Choir | John Ross, Organist

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kelly Braswell-Burbach, Kathy Phillip, Daniel Dunlap

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

Dishwasher: Custodial Staff

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter



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

The week of Sept. 27, 2026

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

Creation Celebration 🌱 Fall '26

Worship:

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. Exodus 17: Water from a rock.

Adult Education: Stewardship of Food and Water

Pick up your coffee after worship and bring it to the Lounge, 11:15-noon, as we consider the critical relationships of earth care, food, and water over the next few weeks.

Today—Data Center Water Use 101. Data centers—Good for us? Bad for us? We're hearing a lot of concerns both ways, and some of those relate specifically to their use of water. John Hay is a member of the Palmyra Presbyterian Church and understands our interest in responsible care of creation. He has been a UNL Extension Educator for 22 years, 19 years of which have been focused on energy. He is well prepared to talk about how data centers work and the trade-off decisions they face in their meeting their sustainability goals.

October 4th—Nebraska Water—Development, Use, and Policy. Crystal Powers, UNL Extension Educator and member of First Covenant Church, will further the conversation, explaining how Nebraska's aquifers and waterways are affected by the ways we use them.

Explorers Bible Study of Romans

Explorers Study of Romans meets on Mondays through Nov. at the church library at 11 AM. You are invited.

The Green Barrel Returns for the LINCOLN HYGIENE NETWORK

Presbyterian Women at Westminster are again partnering in September and October with the Lincoln Hygiene Network to provide basic hygiene necessities through over 20 community groups who help people in the Lincoln-Lancaster County area. Hygiene and period products are NOT covered by SNAP or WIC. Hygiene items

are essential to provide health and dignity for our neighbors. The most needed products are deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, period products, hair care products, and laundry items. If you wish to give a money donation a QR Code is available by the barrel or contact www.lincolnhygienetwork.org for how to donate online or by check with **PW Westminster** on the memo line. Look for the **Green Barrel** near the east entrance off the parking lot for all of **September and October. Give with a generous heart.**

Dudes Night Out

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 5pm-7pm

Westminster Men

Join us for a good meal and lots of fellowship at the Hi-Way Diner 2105 Nebraska Pkwy. There is no agenda; the primary goal is to get-to-know one another better in a small group setting. We would love to have you join us at the table; please RSVP to garyhaller70@att.net by Sunday, September 27. If you have questions or suggestions please email, text, or call Gary Haller at (817) 757-2980.

October Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, October 6, 11:30 A.M., at Hacienda Real, 3130 Pine Lake Rd. They are located near Trader Joe's. Please R.S.V.P. to Jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

Pianist Needed for Preschool Program

Preschool is looking for a pianist to play for the Christmas Program on Dec. 17. Must be able to attend 2-3 morning practices during the week of the program. Contact Laurie McCubbin, Preschool Director, at 402-475-6702 if interested in helping out!

Confirmation Kick-Off Session

Sunday, October 25

11:15a – 12:00p in Fellowship Hall

For youth 9th-grade-and-up who have not been confirmed.

A parent/guardian is encouraged to attend with youth. We will have some icebreakers, snacks, and our first session, "What is Confirmation?" After the Kick-Off session, the class will meet at the same time on Nov. 1, 8, 15, Feb. 7, 21, 28, and April 4, 11. Confirmation Sunday will be at the 10 am service on May 9. Contact Trish Souliere (trish@westminsterlincoln.org) to 'confirm' your participation in the class and/or RSVP for this session!

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 (Sept. 27 to Oct. 3):

Hosta La Vista

- Cut out sucker trees and remove vine weed.

Profit Path

- Cut out sucker trees, trim new branches from trees, & remove weeds

Parking Lot 4 (circles)

- Needs cleaned up from weeds, etc.

South Street

- L'il Devils Corner - needs weeded-plus bricks
- Strip 1n - weeded on parking lot side (front of playground)

All Parking Lots

- Cleanup the lots from leaves along the curb.

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!

October Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet on Wednesday October 21 at 1 PM in the Lounge. It is our privilege to have Pat Leech as our guest. She will review the American Library Association Notable Books for 2026. She promises to have some unexpected titles too. Everyone is welcome.

KidCon II: Cake, Costumes, & Major Discoveries | October 25, 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Faith has never been this much fun! Join us for KidCon II, an exciting adventure where kids can grow in faith and make lasting memories.

Spooktacular Trunk or Treat | Oct 28, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM

Believe it or not, Spooktacular is coming soon! All Cowboys, princesses, and creatures of the night are invited to slither, shuffle, or ride on down to Westminster to play games, trick or treat, for a frightfully fun evening.

Week Beginning Sept. 27

<u>Sun. (Sept. 27)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel <u>Mon. (Sept. 28)</u> 11 AM Memorial Service and Reception--Marjorie Groszkruger 11 AM The Explorers—Study of Romans, Library 6 PM Session 6:30 PM Scouts Den Meetings, Youth Areas <u>Tues. (Sept. 29)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 6 PM YAAL Improv, Youth Room	<u>Wed. (Sept. 30)</u> 1 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wed. Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanct. <u>Thurs. (Oct. 1)</u> 5:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal 6 PM YAAL Rehearsal, FH <u>Fri. (Oct. 2)</u> 11 AM Memorial Service and Reception—Sandi Larson <u>Sat. (Oct. 3)</u> 9 AM YAAL rehearsal, FH 3:30 PM YAAL Youngsters, FH 3:30 PM Wedding—Nelson/Perzinski <u>Sun. (Oct. 4)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 PM Sudanese Worship, Chapel
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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