WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
15 November 2026 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Voluntary Now Thank We All Our God — J.S. Bach

***Ringing of the Bell**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We gather together, to share in the praises of our Creator God!

People: **Yet, how can we adequately describe the Creator of the universe?**

Leader: In faith, we will praise the LORD. O God, how wonderful you are!

People: **We come to tell each other how wonderful God is!**

Leader: Yet, as we respond to God's glory, there are not sufficient words!

People: **Even so, we will praise the LORD. O God, how glorious you are!**

***Processional Hymn 367** Come, Ye Thankful People, Come — *St. George's Windsor*

***Unison Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Silent Confession** *During this silence, worshipers are asked to offer individual prayers of confession.*

***Sung Response** Lord Have Mercy Upon Us — Hymnal, Back Cover

***Declaration of Pardon and Passing of the Peace**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.
People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**
Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Leader: Let us greet one another with the sign of peace.

***Response of Praise** Gloria Patri — Hymnal, Back Cover

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be
world without end, Amen, Amen.

Children's Sermon *Following the response, children in Pre-Kindergarten–Grade 5 will go to their Sunday school classes and youth in Grades 6-7 go to Confirmation Prep class.*

Congregational Response

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.
(1.Organ 2. Choir 3. & 4. Congregation & Choir)

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading Psalm 42 — Pew Bible, OT page 515

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 26:36-39 — Pew Bible, NT page 30

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Learning to Pray — Rev. Dr. Anne C. S. Marshall

Anthem Bless This House — May H. Brahe

Bless this house, O Lord, we pray, make it safe by night and day.
Bless these walls, so firm and stout, keeping want and trouble out.
Bless the roof and chimneys tall, let thy peace be over all.
Bless this door that it may prove ever open to joy and love.

Bless these windows shining bright, letting in God's heavenly light.
Bless the hearth ablazing there, with smoke ascending like a prayer.
Bless the folk who dwell within, keep them pure and free from sin.
Bless us all that we may be fit, O Lord, to dwell with thee.
Bless us all that one day we may dwell, O Lord, with thee.

Recognition of New Member

*Affirmation of Faith

Excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve…

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Church at Prayer

Choir: Surely the presence of our God is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of our God is in this place.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.
Pastor: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer Hymnal, page 35

The Presentation of Our Gifts *At this time all worshipers are asked to sign and pass the Ministry of Friendship folders in the pew racks.*

Offertory Sanctus (A Separate Splendor) Craig Courtney

You brush the vault of heaven and paint the stars of night, each with a separate splendor, the canvas filled with light. You count them in their places. You call their names, they gleam. When you touch their pulse with fire, the stars begin to sing. Sanctus, sanctus, alleluia.

This is our separate splendor: a soul of light from birth, a star that yearns for heaven in this body made of earth. Stardust clinging to your hands transformed the clay in me: I hear the stars rejoicing and I begin to sing. Sanctus, sanctus, alleluia.

You crown the night with wonder; you set the tars aflame. And in our separate splendors, you light pours forth your name. The heavens fill with glory as all your shining stars sing to the one who made us as we are. Sanctus, sanctus, alleluia.

***Offertory Response** Doxology Hymnal, 606

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 Dedication**

Loving God, we have so many reasons to thank you. Your generosity, grace, and mercy are astounding, and we pray that the gifts we offer in worship and throughout the week might be used in your name. Help us to be generous with our money, but also with our talents and time. Strengthen us to recognize your blessings and inspire us to be grateful. Amen.

***Hymn 465** What a Friend We Have In Jesus *Converse*

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response** Forth in Thy Name Orlando Gibbons

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only thee, resolved to know,
In all I think, or speak, or do.

***Voluntary** Now Thanks We All Our God Sigfried Karg-Elert

(*) The congregation is invited to stand.

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO WESTMINSTER MINISTRIES ARE WELCOME TO SCAN HERE

SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
- **Worship Leader:** Harper Huston
- **Acolytes:** Connor and Lily Hill
- **Greeters:** Dick and Carol Cordier
- **Safety Team:** John Stafford
- **Ushers:** Joyce King (Head Usher), Andrew Affrunti, Ben Arnold, Michella Arnold, Linda Caupert, Chelsea Ekstedt, and Pete Sherman
- **Music:** The Westminster Choir, The St. Andrew's Sisters, Dale Rogers, Organist
- **Videographers and Sound**: Bill Deemer, Krista Steller, and William Affrunti

EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:15 a.m. – New Member Session in the Library**
- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon Infants, toddlers, and two-year-olds (Nursery)** gather for play and Bible Story. *Caregivers: Kara Milward*
- **10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Children in Pre-K – Grade 5 Sunday School**
  - **PreK – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz & Sara Eldridge*
  - **Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Room)** *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz & Julie Robbs*
- **10:15 – 12:00 p.m. Confirmation Classes**
  - **Grades 6 & 7** meet from 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room during worship (except on Communion Sundays).
  - **Grade 8** meets from 11:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the Conf. Room following worship.
- **11:15 a.m. – Adult Ed Forum** Today after the 10:00 a.m. worship, the Adult Education Committee will be offering this education opportunity: ***"Did you know…?"***

  Little-Known Stories from the History of Westminster

  A booklet written by Becky Martin and Sue Cull will be introduced in the Sanctuary. Everyone will be given a book and after a short presentation by the authors and Dale Rogers. Attendees will have plenty of time to ask questions and explore to find out among other things how Andrew Carnegie, Paul Revere and Frank Lloyd Wright have anything to do with Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- **11:15 a.m. – Fair Trade** –Alongside our regular fair trade items, Yves Douman will be in the West Narthex this Sunday with packaged honey and spice mixes for sale from Motherland Gardens. Come buy a locally raised and produced gift for yourself or a friend and talk to Yves about the progress they are making at Motherland Gardens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME VISITORS! Information about us is on our website www.wpcspi.org. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located at the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining Westminster, speak with one of the pastors.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER Mark Voreis! Mark grew up in Lena Illinois, graduated from Lena Winslow High school. in 2014, Knox College in 2018, and the Illinois State Police Academy in 2019. He has been a State Trooper ever since graduation and moved to Springfield in 2025 to serve in the Executive Protective Unit. Mark's family includes his father, Marty and mother Linda, and two brothers, Eric & Evan Voreis who still live in Lena. His interests include following the Chicago Cubs & Bears, travelling, reading/exploring history, trap shooting, and comedy. His hobbies include fishing, exercise, cycling, reading and spending time with friends.

A BIG THANK YOU FOR FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS – A huge thank you to all who brought food and snack items Sunday, November 1, 2026, for our own micro pantry and Compass for Kids Clubs in Springfield. Your generous donations are already helping to fight hunger in our community each and every day.

CONTACT MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS GIFT SIGN-UPS are ongoing. **The deadline for signing up is Tuesday, December 1** and the deadline for financial contributions is Sunday, November 29. Visit the Westminster website for instructions on how to sign up and drop off gifts. If you need help signing up, please contact the church office.

THANK YOU, JENNIE ALT. This week, Jennie Alt announced her resignation from her position as Church Administrative Assistant at Westminster. While we are sorry to see her leave, we want to take this opportunity to celebrate Jennie and thank her for the many ways she has contributed to the life of our church. During her time at Westminster, Jennie brought energy, enthusiasm, and a special passion to so much of what she did. She put her heart into her work, and her dedication and hard work have been appreciated. Jennie has been an important part of our Westminster family, and we will miss her.

We hope you will join us in letting Jennie know just how much she has meant to our church community. We invite you to share a favorite memory, a personal note of thanks, or simply your warm wishes for whatever comes next. You may send a card to the church addressed to Jennie Alt or place one in the basket that is in the West Narthex, labeled "Cards for Jennie Alt". We will collect cards through **Monday, November 23**, and send them all to Jennie that day.

LYDIA CIRCLE meets on **Tuesday, November 17 at 9:30 a.m**. in the Ziegler Library. Sharon Turner will host and provide the discussion of Lesson 3 in their PW study. Circle Contact: Nancy Canady.

KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP gathers on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second-Floor Classroom. The group is knitting colder weather items for children and adults. We will collect knitted hats, scarves, and mittens in late fall and for the Mitten Tree later. Knitters of any skill level are welcome. Please contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 218-622-8657 for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, November 18, 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. We have an ongoing D&D campaign at Westminster that's open to players of all ages, regardless of experience - the youngest player we've had has been 9, and one of our regular members is in their 80s! Dungeon Master Aaron Berkowitz will teach you the rules as you play!

CONCORDIA SERVICE & LUNCHEON – Members and friends of Westminster will gather **Thursday, November 19, at 11:30 a.m.** with the Pastors and the Director of Music and the Arts, for worship with communion followed by lunch.

DMA - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - DMA (Don't Mention Age) will meet for its last 2026 date for a **5:30 potluck and program at 6:15 p.m**. in Parish Hall. We have a unique program by an actress from Chatham, Rosemary Connolly, who will provide an in-character program called "Hello Girls," a story the story of telephone operators throughout history. An RSVP is suggested but not required.

BREADLESS BREADLINE FUNDRAISER will be on **Sunday, November 22** for St. John's Breadline, which serves hot food 365 days a year. This year, we will once again host the "Breadless Breadline Sunday." WPC members are encouraged to provide additional donations marked for St. John's Breadline. To give online, use the QR code in this bulletin, choose the fund "Spec Mission Donation," and type "Breadline Sunday" in the memo line.



2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – Pledges for 2027 were dedicated during our worship service on November 1 as a symbol of our faithfulness to this covenant community. As of Thursday, November 12, we have now reached 76% of our $989,770 goal. Our total pledged from 144 families is $749,142. We are still accepting 2027 pledges. Simply place a completed pledge card in the offering plate today. Pledges can also be made online using the QR code in this bulletin.

THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER

Monday, November 16

3:00 PM DAR Meal Prep (Kitchen)
5:00 PM 80th Anniversary DAR Sgt Caleb Hopkins Chapter (Parish Hall)

Tuesday, November 17

9:30 AM Lydia Circle (Ziegler Library)
10:30 AM Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Classroom)
1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2nd Floor Classroom)
3:00 PM Compass for Kids
5:15 PM Membership Committee (Library)
7:00 PM St. Andrew's Sisters (Off-Site)

Wednesday, November 18

10:00 AM Sing by Heart Dementia Friendly Choir (Parish Hall)
10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
3:30 PM DBSA Group (3rd Floor Classroom)
5:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
5:30 PM Jr. High Youth Group (Youth Room)
5:30 PM Session (Parish Hall)
6:00 PM Children's Choir (Music Room)
6:30 PM D & D Group (Library)

Thursday, November 19

11:30 AM Concordia Worship (Off-Site)
2:30 PM Early Stage Memory Loss Group (2nd Floor Class)
5:45 PM Thursday Night Bible Study (2nd Floor Class)
7:00 PM Choir (Music Room)

Friday, November 20

10:30 AM WCP Friendship Feast (Parish Hall)
5:30 PM DMA Potluck (Parish Hall)
6:15 PM DMA Program (Parish Hall)

Saturday, November 21

11:00 AM Church Mice (2nd Floor Classroom)

Sunday, November 22

9:00 AM Breadless Breadline Sunday
10:00 AM Worship Service (St-Andrews)
10:15 AM Sunday School Stays in Worship
10:15 AM Confirmation Prep (Conference Room)
11:15 AM Adult Ed Forum (Parish Hall)

WESTMINSTER STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Anne Marshall
Pastor and Head of Staff

The Reverend Sarah A. Bishop
Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle
Parish Associate

Dale T. Rogers
Director of Music and the Arts

Sue Sawers, CRE
Interim Care Coordinator

Dr. Aaron Berkowitz
Education Coordinator

Mary A. Ray
Director for Youth

Meleah Berkowitz
Director for Children's Ministry, Westminster Cooperative Preschool, and Music Assistant

Keri Tate, Becky Nika
Cooperative Preschool Teachers

Kara Milward, Erin Winn
Nursery Coordinators

Pat Hymans
Hospitality Coordinator

Lisa Runkle
Financial Administrator

Gary Warnick
Building and Property Manager

Braden Barton, Terry Gietl, Lamonte Gross, Jerry McCullum
Part-time Custodians

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