



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Sacrament of Communion  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
12 May 2024 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Ministry Moment

Vacation Bible School

Voluntary

Chanson

Edward Elgar

**\*Ringing of the Bell**

*The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

**\* Call to Worship**

Psalm 1

Leader:

Happy are those who delight in God's law  
and who meditate on these words day and night.

People:

**They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season.**

Leader:

Their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

People:

**For the gift of God's law and for  
the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,**

Leader:

we raise our hymn of grateful praise.

**\*Processional Hymn 14**

**For the Beauty of the Earth**

*Dix*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Holy and Loving God, forgive us for not always delighting in your law. Rather than see the boundaries you provide as life-giving, we sometimes rebel against the limitations set before us. Forgive us for our egocentricity and for the ways we do not honor or respect our brothers and sisters who also belong to you. Hear now our silent 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.

**Anthem** Family Recipe Joseph M. Martin

What are mothers made of? What's the recipe?  
Lots of fun, lots of love, lots of smiles, lots of hugs.  
God made mothers soft and strong. That is why I sing this song.

**Third Grade  
Bible Presentation**

**Congregational Response** Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks Donald Fishel

**Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

*Children (preschool – Grade 5) go to Sunday School following the  
Congregational Response.*

**First Scripture Reading** Psalm 1 Pew Bible, OT page 489

**Second Scripture Reading** John 17:6-11 Pew Bible, NT page 137

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

**Meditation** Roots and Wings Rev. Dr. Blythe D Kieffer

*Text: They are like trees planted by streams of water which yield  
their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper. Psalm 1:3*

**Anthem**      Benedicts es Domine      Everett Titcomb  
Blessed art thou, O Lord God: praised and exalted above all forever.  
Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty.  
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness.  
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths.  
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy Kingdom.  
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven.

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

**Offertory**      Ave Verum      Edward Elgar

**\*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.

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Invitation to the Lord's Table

### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
**People: We lift them to the Lord.**  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
Pastor: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and  
praise...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with  
choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and  
with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever  
sing to the glory of your name.

*The people sing:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Pastor:** You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

**People:** **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Pastor:** Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...

Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Hymnal, page 35*

**Words of Institution**

**Communion Music**

Poco Lento

Edward Elga

**Distribution of Elements**

*The elements are served without interruption. Partake of the bread as you receive it and hold the cup until all have been served so that we may symbolize our unity in Christ.*

*Gluten-free bread is available in the center of the plate.*

**\*Prayer after Communion**

**Holy and loving God, you have nourished us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with roots and wings in the name of Jesus Christ, that we may be a source of courage and joy for one another and the world. Amen**

**\*Hymn 611**

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

*Ode to Joy*

## \*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Response      Day by Day      Harold Friedell

\*Voluntary      Ode to Joy      Ludwig van Beethoven

(\* ) The congregation is invited to stand.

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **Sunday Liturgist:** Rev. Gerald Boutelle
- **Worship Leader:** Maria Lafrenz
- **Acolytes:** Charlotte & William Affrunti
- **Bible & Cross Carriers:** James Maeda & Sam Batterman
- **Greeters:** Katy and James Maeda
- **Today's Communion Bread** was lovingly baked by Pat McNutt.
- **Communion Prep Team:** Mary Ray, Ann Collins, Priscilla and Tim Kluge, Elisabeth and Mark Luttrell, Leigh Milward,
- **Elders Serving Communion:** Judy Knox (Team Leader) John Cross, Kristianna Eastvold, Rachael Hickman, Gregg Humphrey, Todd Knox, Dave Leonatti, Pat McNutt, Mary Ray, Julie Robbs, Greg Swanson, Eleanor VanDeventer
- **Home Communion Teams:** Melanie and Bud Green, Kathy Kenyon, Judy Knox and Marilyn Rigney, Val Leonatti and Mary Ray
- **Music:** Children's Choir, Katie Moore, director, The Westminster Choir; Dale Rogers, organist
- **Ushers:** Sabrina Holmes (Head Usher), Kyle Duffy, Melanie Green, Chris Hickman, Joyce King, Camille Massey, Bill Schlosser, and Erin Winn
- **Safety Team:** Jim Dolan and Alan Schuermann
- **Videographers and Sound:** Bob and Elsie Fox and Bob Leffler

## EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY AT WESTMINSTER

- **9:45 a.m. – 12 noon** **Infants, toddlers, preschoolers (Nursery)** This week's Bible Story: "God Helps Us Be Brave" (Queen Esther) *Caregivers: Erin Winn, Maria Lafrenz, Lynne McMenam*
- **10:15 – 11:00 a.m. Sunday School Children** will begin in worship with their families & go to Sunday school following the Congregational Response.
  - **Children in Kindergarten – Grade 2 (Third Floor Chapel)** The story is "God Protects Us" (Daniel). *Teachers: Meleah Berkowitz*
  - **Sunday School Children in Grade 3 – Grade 5 (Third Floor Tower Classroom)** The story is "A New Apostle" (Acts 1:15-17, 21-26). *Teachers: Aaron Berkowitz, Sophia Choi*
- **11:15 a.m. – 12 noon** **Adult Education Forum** presents Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (Parish Hall) On the 200th Anniversary of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, learn the story of how Beethoven's hearing loss did not deter his creativity, but instead, expanded it. *Led by Dale T. Rogers*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE WELCOME VISITORS!** Information about who we are is in our Welcome Brochure located in the pew pockets and on our website. Please complete the Ministry of Friendship folder located on the end of each pew. If you are interested in joining, please speak to a pastor.

**THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION** – Today we present Bibles to our third graders and new members in fourth and fifth grade. They will receive a NRSV Spark Bible with an engraved name plate on the cover. Javiera “Abi” will receive a bilingual English/Spanish Bible. It is our hope and prayer that these scriptures become a guiding light for our children on their faith journey.

Nathan James Affrunti  
Sam Sloane Berkowitz  
Diana Da-Ae Choi  
Aaleeviah Lanya Collins  
August Joseph Ekstedt  
Jenna Belle Hill

Isabela Rose McHenry  
Luke Aarav McNutt  
Charlotte Anne Moore  
Paislee Grace Reich  
Maeven Marie O'Reilly  
Javiera “Abi” Velásquez Alonso

**H.E.A.L. FUND** provides “helpful emergency assistance for living” to members of the Springfield community through Contact Ministries and within our church family as needed. Donations are welcome. This fund is highlighted on Communion Sundays.

**PW SPONSORS BLANKETS+ DURING MAY** PW and Springfield’s Church Women United sponsor Blankets+ (formerly Blanket Sunday) during May. Church World Services collaborates with local communities to identify people with needs and secure resources to build a more viable future. Donate by writing a check or on the church website.

**PENTECOST OFFERING** Westminster participates in the Pentecost denominational offering which unites the church by helping youth begin their life with a solid foundation of faith. **Forty percent of all gifts stay within Westminster and our portion will support the 2024 Youth Mission Trip.**

**KNIT 2 PURL 4 MISSION AND FELLOWSHIP** meets on **Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE SPRING DINNER** meets Monday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m. for our spring dinner at Dublin Pub.

**BRIDGES** mid-week fellowship for Grades 3-5 welcomes their advocates at their final gathering, Wednesday, May 15 at 4:00 p.m.

**DR. KIEFFER’S BIBLE STUDY POTLUCK** Dr. Kieffer’s Bible Study celebrates their 2023-2024 journey through Genesis, John, and the Holy Land Revealed on Thursday, **May 16 at 5:30 p.m.** with communion and a potluck dinner at the home of Blythe and Peter Kieffer.

**SPRINGFIELD CHORAL SOCIETY** presents *In Paradisum* on **Friday, May 17** at 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Joined by the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, featured works by Faure, Bruckner, Barber, Dalglish, Dodson, Duruflé, Kirchner, and Trumbore will be included. Westminster choir members who also sing in Choral Society include Jim Kontio, Adam Miller, Lyle and Eleanor VanDeventer, Brian Richardson, Dale Rogers, and Jennie Alt.

## FOUNDERS' SUNDAY, MAY 19 "WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD" PARTY!



Join us on Pentecost and Founders' Sunday, May 19 for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a picnic reception in Parish Hall as we celebrate our new neighbors, the Velasquez Alonso Family. This partnership with WelcomeCorps and the Exodus World Service has been one of Westminster's greatest joys in 2024. The Betty Smith Mission Endowment Fund along with the hospitality of so many members is truly inspiring. Come, join our fiesta featuring Nicaraguan dishes as we welcome our new neighbors.

Each year on Founders' Sunday, the Endowment Committee thanks those who have given and invites others to join the Albert Hale Circle. **Those who donate or communicate their plans to make a testamentary gift by Wednesday, May 17 will be included in the Albert Hale Circle published in the bulletin on May 21 and in the June Reporter.**

**LYDIA CIRCLE** meets **Tuesday, May 21 at 9:30 a.m.** in the church library. Sharon Zook will lead Lesson 8 "Lydia Encounters Jesus" from the 2023 Horizon's Bible Study Sacred Encounters.

**JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH END OF THE YEAR PARTY** will be Sunday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. Thank you to Susan and Scott Day for hosting the event at their home ((47 Fairview Lane, 62712).

**BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY, JUNE 2** - Graduating high school seniors are honored during the 10:00 a.m. service. A reception in their honor will be held in Parish Hall following worship. All Westminster graduates (high school, college, and graduate school) will be listed in the June 2 bulletin and the June Newsletter. Please contact Jennie Alt (jalt@wpcspi.org) with information by Friday, May 24.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CAMP FIRELIGHT JUNE 3-7, 2024** Monday – Friday, June 3-7 from 9:15 a.m. to noon, children ages 4 to grade 5 will gather to experience God's love surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills! Campers learn to face their fears while trusting in God. Each day, we will explore timeless Bible stories that show how Old and New Testament Campers trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. We will also learn ways we can connect with and put our trust in God whenever we are afraid, challenged, or called to do God's work in the world. Registration is open at <https://wpcspi.mycokesburyvbs.com/>.



### FIFTH ANNUAL STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK

Westminster is in its fifth year of fulfilling the congregation's commitment to invest \$450,000 in our neighborhood over the course of the decade. Letters were sent to neighbors on behalf of the Steadfast Neighbor Mission Task Force with extended boundaries for the Matching Grant program. As of April 15, we have received 30 matching grant and 19 service week project applications.

**SITE VISITS** will be Monday–Wednesday, May 13–15.

**STEADFAST NEIGHBOR MISSION TEAM** will meet Tuesday, May 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom to finalize service week projects.

**STEADFAST NEIGHBOR TEAM MEETING** will be Tuesday, June 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Parish Hall.

**STEADFAST NEIGHBOR SERVICE WEEK JUNE 17-21** - We invite you to join us for one or more days during the third week of June as we spread goodwill throughout the neighborhood. If you are interested, contact Todd Knox at [hardknox1@mac.com](mailto:hardknox1@mac.com).

## **THIS WEEK AT WESTMINSTER**

### **Monday, May 13**

- 9:30 AM King's Daughters Annual Luncheon
- 12:30 PM Refugee Subcommittee (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM SNE Committee Site Visits
- 4:30 PM Elizabeth Circle Spring Dinner (Dublin Pub)

### **Tuesday, May 14**

- 10:30 PM Staff Meeting (Pastor's Study)
- 12:00 PM Knitters Lunch (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 1:00 PM Knit 2 Purl 4 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 2:30 PM SNE Committee Site Visits
- 3:00 PM Compass for Kids
- 5:45 PM Family Ministry (Pastor's Study)

### **Wednesday, May 15**

- 10:00 AM Pastors Pray in Chancel (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 AM Worship Planning (Pastor's Study)
- 1:00 PM SNE Committee Site Visits
- 4:00 PM Depression and Bi-Polar Support Group (Conference Room)
- 4:00 PM Bridges (Tower Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Board of Deacons (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 6:15 PM Session Coordinating (Pastor's Study)
- 7:00 PM Westminster Choir (Music Room)

### **Thursday, May 16**

- 11:30 AM Concordia Worship Service (Concordia)
- 1:00 PM Library Guild (Children's Library)
- 4:30 PM Personnel Committee (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom)
- 5:30 PM Dr. Kieffer's Bible Study Potluck (Off-site)
- 6:00 PM WCP Parent Welcome Meeting (Parish Hall)

### **Friday, May 17**

### **Saturday, May 18**

- 10:00 AM Women's Garden Party (Offsite)

### **Sunday, May 19 – Founders' Sunday**

- 10:00 AM Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 AM Sunday School PreK-5 (Sanctuary)
- 11:00 AM Founders' Day Picnic (Parish Hall)
- 5:00 PM Jr. & Senior High Youth End of the Year Party (Off-site)

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## **WESTMINSTER STAFF**

**The Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer**  
Pastor and Head of Staff

**The Reverend Christian K. Choi**  
Associate Pastor for Parish Life

**The Reverend Gerald W. Boutelle**  
Parish Associate

**Dale T. Rogers**  
Director of Music and the Arts

**Mary Ray**  
Director for Youth

**Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz**  
Co-Directors for Children's Ministry

**Katie Moore**  
Director for Children's Music

**Erin Winn**  
Nursery Coordinator

**Emily Rowley, Keri Tate**  
Cooperative Preschool Staff

**Ellen Carpenter**  
Parish Nurse

**Pat Hymans**  
Hospitality Coordinator

**Lisa Runkle**  
Financial Administrator

**Jennie Alt**  
Church Administrative Assistant

**Krista Steller**  
Communications Coordinator

**Gary Warnick**  
Building and Property Manager

**Peter Bysko, James Capler,  
Terry Gietl**  
Part-time Custodians