Morning Worship
The Communion of Saints

Gathering: Preparing to Hear the Word

In Preparation for Worship

"What we celebrate in the saints is not their piety or perfection, but the fact that we believe in a God who gets redemptive and holy things done in this world through, of all things, human beings, all of whom are flawed. I really do believe that..."
—Nadia Bolz-Weber

Sharing the Life of Westminster Rev. Lynette Sparks

As we prepare for worship, we are invited to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

Opening Voluntary "Tower Bells" *Kirtsy Mitchell*
Middle School Bells

Introit "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" *Spiritual*
The text of this anthem can be found in the hymnal, hymn 775.
Carol Choir

++Call to Worship

What kind of love has God given us?
A love that proclaims we are God's very own.
What kind of promise has God given us?
God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.
What kind of future has God given us?
God will lead us to springs of life-giving water.
Blessing and glory,
wisdom and thanksgiving,
honor and power and might
be to our God, forever and always!

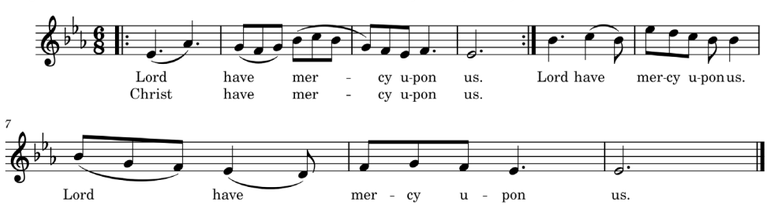
++Hymn 375 **"Shall We Gather at the River"** *Hanson Place*

Prayer of Confession Elder Deb Kammer

Holy God, we know that we may rest in your grace; never for a moment are we outside of your constant care. And yet, when life goes awry, your promises seem distant. We retreat into fear. We worry about what we cannot change. We forget why we do what we do in the name of our risen Lord. Forgive our anxious fears. Lead us to be the people of God that you created us to be.

Silent Confession

Kyrie *Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), arr. Sarah Simko*



++ Stand in body or in spirit
Bold text is spoken by the congregation

Assurance of God's Grace

What can separate us from the love of Christ? Nothing. Neither death, nor life, nor heavenly beings, nor earthly powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Praise God! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

++Response Hymn 802 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" *St. Columba*
(Stanza 6)
And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

++Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

Ministry of Music "With One Heart" *Mark Patterson (b. 1969)*
With one heart and one voice we will glorify the Lord
as we learn together to sing with one accord.
Though each one here is diff'rent in so many ways,
we can all join together in one song of praise.
With one heart and one voice we come now to sing, raising one alleluia to Christ, our King.
Lord you have shown us your mercy, you've shown us forgiveness each day.
Now help us to love one another and show the world your spirit of grace.
So come ev'ry nation with voices raised. We can all join together in one song of praise.
Chapel Singers & Olivia Zallar, Flute

Third Grade Bibles Nancy Greidanus & Elder Ben Boerkoel
Elliott Bratt Carle, Jacob Bruinsma, Eli Coke, Patrick DeLano-Taylor, Henry Hathaway, Berkleigh Heinonen, Ruby Lipsker, Martin Mahlmann, Neil More, Will Ninemeier, Vivian Patterson, Emmett Pipher, Elliot Richert, Ellie Schnepp, Jeremiah Woods

Blessings with Younger Disciples

Children three years through second grade may finish their time of worship in the Worship Centers. Children's worship leaders or parents will shepherd them from the Sanctuary to their rooms. Parents may pick them up in their worship rooms following the service.

Congregation: As you worship together, may God be with you.
Children: And also with you.
Congregation: Go in peace!

The Word

Scripture Revelation 7:9-17 New Testament p. 249

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon "The Communion of Saints" Rev. Lynette Sparks

Responding to the Word

++Hymn 731 **"Give Thanks for Those Whose Faith Is Firm"** *Repton*

Recognition of Heritage Members

Offering Our Lives Rev. Jen Porter

Please take a moment to sign and pass the red friendship pad located in the pew, and take note of those worshiping next to you. We invite you to fill out any of the pew cards and place them in the offering plate.

Offertory "Beside the Still Waters" *Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970)*
The text of this anthem is a paraphrase of Psalm 23, Old Testament, p. 501.
Sanctuary Choir

++Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements and partake of them immediately as you receive them. You may either dip your bread in the cup of grape juice, or take an individual cup from the trays provided. Please take your used cups with you as you return to your seats and place them in the cupholders in the back of your pew. If you would like the elements brought to you, please raise your hand and a server will bring them to you. All bread is gluten-free. Children are welcome to participate in this sacrament.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Communion Music "Deux Chorals" *Jehan Alain (1911-40)*
(Dorien - Phrygien)

Prayer of Response

God of earth and heaven, thank you for meeting us at this table, for feeding us, healing us, and giving us strength. Thank you for a taste of the joy that is to come—when every tear will be wiped away, when no one will hunger or thirst, and when we will drink from the springs of the water of life. We bless you, O God, forever and ever! Amen.

Going Out to Be the Church

++Hymn 326 **"For All the Saints"** *Sine Nomine*

++Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary "Postlude in D minor" *Anton Bruckner (1824-96)*

Congregational Charge

Go into the world in peace. Have courage. Hold on to all that is good. Return no one evil for evil. Do justice. Walk with those who are fainthearted. Help those who suffer. Honor all people. Love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ahead in Worship

Sunday, November 8
Let There Be Light
Rev. Lynette Sparks
Matthew 25:1-13
Sanctuary Choir, Bell Choir, Cherub Choir

Sunday, November 15
Possible. Always.
Rev. Jen Porter
Matthew 25:14-30
Sanctuary Choir & Kirk Singers

Ahead in Adult Faith Formation: Who Is My Neighbor?

All Generations Sunday: November 1 Join us after worship for All Generations Sunday brunch, as we celebrate and remember our church's journey of faith together. We will enjoy a time of fellowship with a creative twist! We hope to see you there.

Last Things First: A Critical Look at Living Out the End Times
November 8-22, Chapel following worship Much of how we live today is informed by how we understand what might happen tomorrow, or in this case, at the end of all things. This class will examine the relationship between ethics and eschatology, or our theology of the last things, with a focus on poverty, geopolitics, and environmental stewardship. Led by Rev. Kyle Kooyers.

Session 1: You Always Have the Poor With You - An Eschatology of Poverty and Injustice with Rev. Lynette Sparks
Session 2: The Nations Raged - An Eschatology of Geopolitics
Session 3: The Earth Was Burned Up - An Eschatology of Environmental Stewardship with Jonathan Hand

Worship liturgies adapted from Call to Worship Journal, Connections Worship Companion, and The Presbyterian Outlook. Bulletin image from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of Vanderbilt Divinity School. Beside the Still Waters © 2005 by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc. Music used by permission under ONE LICENSE, License #724668-A. All rights reserved.

Participants in Today's Service

Preacher ..... Rev. Lynette Sparks, Senior Pastor

Liturgists ..... Deb Kammer, Elder for Westminster Presbyterian Adults
..... Nancy Greidanus, Minister for Children & Families
..... Ben Boerkoel, Elder for Children's Ministries
..... Rev. Jen Porter, Associate Pastor

Music ..... Robert Ragoonanan, Minister of Music
..... Janlee Richter, Music Ministry Associate
..... Olivia Zallar, Flute
..... Middle School Bells, director Sarah Faasse
..... Carol Choir, director Lindsey Hoekstra
..... Chapel Singers
..... Sanctuary Choir

Acolytes ..... Cameron Prince & Neil More

AV Team ..... Ian Dengerink-Van Til, Karsten Kotchenruther
..... Rachel Kamstra, Ricky Rivard, Audrey Faasse, Madelyn Faasse

Ushers ..... Bernie & Kathy Smith, John Boerman, Sherrill Vore
..... Marian Vanderwall, Tom DeVries, Ralph Hammond, Ben Boerkoel

Welcome to Westminster

Membership

If you have questions about the life of the church or becoming a member, please email Erika at erikaw@wpcgr.org. More information about worship and updates from the church can be found at westminstergr.org. You are welcome and celebrated here!

Accessibility

If you'd like a large-print bulletin, please ask one of the ushers at a Sanctuary entrance. For T-loop hearing assistance, set your hearing aid to T. We recommend you sit in front of the balcony for the best sound quality.

We have accessible, all-gender, companion bathrooms off of the Dining Room.

Children

Parents of three-year-olds through fifth grade, come to the children's check-in tables in the Gathering Place before the service to sign in. Ask an usher if you'd like special worship bags, folders, or children's bulletins to help your children engage in worship. The nursery (babies through two-year-olds) is available during the service. Children (ages 3 through 2nd grade) will begin worship in the Sanctuary and be invited to continue worship in the interactive settings of our worship centers. Leaders will shepherd them to their centers, but parents are welcome to lead them as well. Children will wait for you at the end of the service in the Children's Ministry hallway off the Gathering Place. For the safety of our children, when a child is NOT in a supervised program area, they must be supervised by an adult at all times. If you are participating in Adult Faith Formation after the service and require childcare, please sign in at the check-in-tables prior to the service.

Youth

On most Sundays after worship, we have youth group and choir for middle and high schoolers. We begin with lunch in the Dining Room. All middle and high schoolers are welcome. Please join us; we'd be happy answer any questions!

616-456-1456 / westminstergr.org / Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Festival of Lights, John August Swanson

The Communion of Saints

All Generations Sunday

November 1, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Announcements

West Michigan Opera Project Presents the US premiere of The Casserole! **November 1, 3:00 p.m.** Composer Evan Snyder will conduct his one act opera and present a post-show talk of his experience and life as a composer, plus a sampling of the cast's favorite casserole recipes! *The Casserole* is an endearing and sinister comedy about a young man searching for his late grandmother's casserole recipe.

Kent County Immigration Bond Fund (Kent I-Bond Fund) is a non-political organization, assisting persons with bonds set by the immigration court system. The fund is governed by immigration activists, lawyers, and affected community members. The Justice Committee will host a table in the gathering place this Sunday with additional information about the fund and how to get involved.

Community and Service Center: Westminster will once again be hosting the Community and Service Center beginning November 4. Our building will be open 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to offer a warm place to go for people experiencing homelessness in our community, as well as connections to vital resources on site, including healthcare, legal aid, and housing case management.

New Communion Pottery: You may notice new communion ware this morning, commissioned by the worship committee from local artist Carla Anderson. The new pottery replaces the previous set that had reached the end of its useful life. The new set also includes matching pottery for home communion.

Baptism: **Seminar on November 8 at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor; Baptism on November 15 during the service** If you are interested in baptism at Westminster, contact Nancy Greidanus (nancyg@wpcgr.org) for more information.

November WPA Luncheon: **November 11, 12:00 p.m.** Please join us for an engaging presentation on the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. Kim and Steve Van Oss will share their experiences with the Rose Parade, and Tom Kormos will showcase his firsthand experience decorating floats through words and pictures. Register online or by calling the church office by November 5!

"Always" Contemporary Dance Performance: **November 14, 11:00 a.m.** Always is a 20 minute contemporary dance performance in the Westminster Sanctuary. There are limited spots available; visit westminstergr.org to learn more!

***All Creation Waits* Author Visit:** **November 22, following worship** Gayle Boss, author of *All Creation Waits*, will present her book with an interactive reading and discussion after the service.

Cuba Information Meeting: **November 22, following worship** We will have a meeting for those interested in finding out more about participating in a Westminster trip to Cuba with First Hand Aid in February 2027.

Reflections: Submissions for our winter edition of Reflections are due on November 20. Submissions can be sent to reflections@wpcgr.org.

Veterans Display: Please stop by our archive cabinet located in the Gathering Place to view our veteran's display during the month of November. Our veteran's album contains original letters written by members to our troops during World War II.

Thank You Westminster for your generous support of the Food Pantry through the Sharing the Bounty Walk. We continue to see a high need for our services and your donations make it possible for us to be a consistent resource for people struggling with food inequity.

Donations can be made by scanning the QR code, through our secure online giving site, or by check sent to the church office. Email mattr@wpcgr.org or call (616)717-5533 with questions.

This Week's Calendar

Sun. November 1

10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:15 a.m.	All Generations Sunday Brunch	Dining Room
3:00 p.m.	The Casserole Performance	Sanctuary
3:30 p.m.	The Casserole Talk Back	Dining Room
5:30 p.m.	High School Night	Various Locations

Mon. November 2

11:00 a.m.	Quilting Group	Multipurpose Room

Tues. November 3

7:00 a.m.	Election Day	Gathering Place
7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting	Chapel

Wed. November 4

6:30 a.m.	High School Prayer Breakfast	Wolfgang's
8:00 a.m.	Community & Service Center	Gathering Place
6:00 p.m.	Membership Growth & Development	Library

Thurs. November 5

8:00 a.m.	Community & Service Center	Gathering Place
10:30 a.m.	Food Pantry	Front Lobby
5:00 p.m.	Technology Team Meeting	Online
5:30 p.m.	Peacemaking Book Group	Library
6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 p.m.	Antiracism As a Way of Being	Parlor
7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room

Fri. November 6

8:00 a.m.	Community & Service Center	Gathering Place

Sun. November 8

9:15 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
10:00 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Gathering Place
11:15 a.m.	Adult Faith Formation	Chapel
11:15 a.m.	Church School & Choir	Various Locations

Recognition of Heritage Members

Today we acknowledge these individuals who have been members at Westminster for 50+ years. Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in the life and ministry of Westminster!

Name	Date Joined	Name	Date Joined
Robert Dildine	6/10/1951	Larry Merryweather	6/16/1968
Eleanor Gorman	4/25/1954	Ed Paul	12/15/1968
John Porter	3/29/1956	Ann Bobroff	3/27/1970
Nancy Taylor	4/3/1958	Barbara Self	4/18/1971
Janet Dildine	3/26/1959	Robert Self	4/18/1971
Peggy Hendricks	6/14/1959	Duane Early	11/28/1971
Cherry Jacobus	10/11/1959	Jeanne Early	11/28/1971
Joseph Martin	4/14/1960	Marilynne McCready	11/28/1971
Sandra Martin	4/14/1960	Susan Porter	11/28/1971
Steve Marshall	3/30/1961	Barbara Savage	3/30/1972
Mary Beth Bartel-Beals	4/19/1962	Deb Roper	4/11/1974
Al TenHoor	4/19/1962	Beverly Orr	4/14/1974
Thomas Lawrence	3/26/1964	Jeanne Marshall	12/11/1974
Mary VandeVoren	1/10/1965	Lois Waldecker	12/11/1974
Janet Moyer	4/15/1965	Barbara Weener	3/23/1975
Marilyn Lawrence	4/7/1966	Dennis Weener	3/23/1975
Alan Burlingham	10/1/1967	Susan Brondyk	4/6/1976
Marilyn Dooge	10/1/1967	Richard Ebers	4/6/1976
Deborah Kammer	10/1/1967	Carolyn Schultz	4/6/1976
Don Taylor	10/1/1967		

Welcome to our new members who were officially received into membership on October 25! We look forward to getting to know them and the work we will do together as a community of faith.



Rebecca & Thomas Carlson



Sondra Kuiper & Rick Devries



Deanna Mitchell



Marj & Bob Terpstra