



**First Christian Church**

Disciples of Christ

430 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St.    Lincoln, NE 68508    402.475.4289

## Weekly Worship

love all • live spiritually • rejoice in hope • show hospitality

**The Rev. Kara Hillhouse**, Pastor  
**Mark W. Miller**, Director of Worship, Music & Sacred Arts  
**Elaine Parman**, Administrative Assistant

Week of May 11, 2025  
[info@fcclincoln.org](mailto:info@fcclincoln.org)  
[www.fcclincoln.org](http://www.fcclincoln.org)



### Community Prayer

God of comfort and compassion, through Jesus, your Son, you lead us to the water of life and table of your bounty. May we who have received the tender love of our Good Shepherd be strengthened by your grace to care for your flock. Amen.

“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,  
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### Call to Worship

One: We gather in the presence of God,

Many: to worship the One who provides what we need, not just what we want.

One: We gather around the Font and Table of God,

Many: where God feeds us with grace and wonder, where God pours the living waters upon us.

# Sermon

From The Rev. Kara Hillhouse

Acts 9:36-43

*The Divine Weaver*

God is many things to many people. I am comforted by many of the titles we give to God—the Good Shepherd, the Light of the World, Divine Physician. One description of God I especially like is God the Artist. When my son was young, he had a book that detailed how God created all the different living beings on earth (it was called “*Mr. and Mrs. God in the Creation Kitchen*”). It depicted the Creation Story, with Mr. and Mrs. God, clothed in aprons and standing in what appeared to be a scientific laboratory-meets-dream-kitchen, “cooking up” new living beings. One of them would add a pinch of this and a dollop of that (a tail here, a fin here, a leg or two here), and then throw them in the oven, and...voila! Something amazing was created. God as Creator. In our text this week we find another artist: Tabitha, the only female identified as a “disciple” of Jesus. Tabitha was a seamstress who made clothes for the poor women in her community. One day she dies and the people mourn for her while sharing stories about how she lived her life and all the many things she did to help those in need. What work of beauty do we put into the world that others will remember after we are gone? It’s not our goal to have others praise us, but it should certainly be our goal to live our lives in a manner that honors God and puts a little beauty into the world. Join us Sunday for for a time of being still and listening for God’s nudge in our lives; and for a time of filling our spiritual buckets with music, fellowship, prayer and the Lord’s Supper. We’ll see you at First!

Pastor Kara



# Scripture Readings

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff - they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

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## Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.



# Prayers & Praises

## May 11, 2025



### Song of the week

#### My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name. In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream. He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways, and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay; one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away. Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread; my cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days; O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise. There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come; no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.



#### In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Rhonda Ball
- Cecilia Burkhart
- Jim Christ
- Joan Dietrich
- Wayne Duncan
- Ron Hile
- Phyllis Knosp
- Polly Putney
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

*Sympathy to the Christianson family.* Brady's father, Roger passed away. His funeral will be May 8th. Please keep Brady, Kristie, Hunter, Edryk and the entire Christianson family in prayer.

*Prayers for Hunter Christianson.* Hunter had knee surgery last week and is home recovering.

*Prayers for Roger & Jessica Vocasek.* Roger is recovering from shoulder surgery and Jessica has back issues.

#### Friends:

- Nikki, friend of Katelyn Long. She is recovering from recent gastric bypass surgery.
- Jody Schrage, friend of Katelyn Long. She is having shoulder surgery.
- Linda De Los Santos, sister of Vincent Ortega. Linda is home and continues rehab.

#### Our Timothy:

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX

**In the Nebraska Region:** Grand Island First Christian Church—Tamara Holtz—Interim

#### Our Global Ministries Missionaries in: Palestine

*"You know each one of us by name, and you do not abandon your flock. In these difficult days, we lift up our people in Palestine, those who mourn, those who wait, and those who work each day for peace with justice. Amid forcible displacement, genocide, and despair, may your voice be heard, calling us into hope."*

For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org)

