



## Prepare the Way of the Lord!

Advent is a four week season densely packed with symbols of hope.

Advent is a time when we acknowledge darkness, gloom and sinfulness in the world. Christianity is about telling the truth: the world is corrupted, and needs saving.

In Advent, along comes John the Baptist, proclaiming: “Prepare the way of the Lord!” While admitting the presence of sin, Advent is a time of anticipation. A new day will come. To prepare -- we practice. If we don’t get ready, we might not recognize and welcome God’s Messiah!

So we practice virtues that prepare our hearts. Each week, we light a candle to remind us. A candle for faith. The light of hope. The brightness of joy. The radiance of love. All four candles, in the circle of the advent wreath as a symbol of God’s eternal love.

Into the darkness, there comes a light. Preparation for the true light of the world. Ready to embrace God when God arrives. Finally on Christmas eve, the Light of the World comes. The birth of the Messiah. From His light radiates the light of the world’s salvation. Faith, hope, joy, love become fully embodied.

So for these four weeks, we practice a spiritual discipline. Expect faith to be made real. Anticipate hope being born, and the world made anew. Practice joy every day. And in your words, expressions, actions and attitude, embody love.

When God’s anointed comes, we will be ready. Joseph, Mary and the baby were homeless, outsiders, alone in the dark. Be ready. When you encounter the stranger, the outsider, the other, the downtrodden, be looking to recognize and say: “Is it you, Lord? Welcome! We’ve made a place for you, in our hearts, and in our world.”

The Light of the World is coming! Merry Christmas!

Andrew McDonald  
Senior Pastor

P.S. Advent and Christmas Eve are gifts to be shared – invite someone to experience the goodness and joy of our worship together!

# December Hot Topic's

## Advent & New Year Music at Westminster

**Advent II (Dec 4) "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!" Youth Musicians & Handbells**

**Advent III (Dec 11) "Gloria" Nebraska Wesleyan University Jazz Choir and Westminster Choir**

A traditional setting of "Gloria" incorporates jazz harmonies and multi-cultural rhythm patterns which is written this year for Westminster Choir by Boyd Bacon.

**Advent IV (Dec 18) Children's Pageant** Westminster Children's Choirs share the Good News from the Gospel from all over the world.

## Sing "Hallelujah Chorus" Together

**Sunday, Dec 18th during 10:30am worship**

Let us gather and sing the "Hallelujah Chorus." No steps required and music will be provided. Meet in the sanctuary at 10:15am or just simply come up at the end of the worship service.

**Christmas Day (Dec 25th)**

10:30am Worship Service ONLY

**New Year's Day (Jan 1st)**

10:30am Worship Service ONLY



## St. Nick Updates

**St. Nick** is well underway for its '**30th**' year! This year, we will be purchasing gifts for 500 people living in Nebraska. **If...you** are one of the many families already signed up to purchase gifts, please remember that **gifts are due back** at the church by **Sunday, Dec 11th**

**(do not wrap gifts & place your name on them).** **If...you** would still like to participate, you may want to bring some of the following items to the church office (with your name on it): Generic stocking stuffers for all ages, Gift wrap and boxes, financial gift. **If...you** enjoy fellowship and gift wrapping, join us for the **St. Nick Wrapping Party Tuesday, Dec 11th at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall** dress for comfort, bring a pair of scissors, any extra gift wrap, and boxes. Bring a friend! We have 'lots' of gifts to wrap! Pizza, fellowship and Christmas spirit, enough for everyone!! **Questions?** Teri Nelson 402-423-0986

# Upcoming Notable Events

## Westminster Youth Lock-In

Starting Fri, Dec 30th at 7PM thru

Sat, Dec 31st at 9AM

Middle School & Senior High Youths

### **Free Event**

Who is ready for a lock-in? To kick off the new year right – we are hosting an all-nighter at the church! We welcome guests! We will open the doors at 7PM - and lock them at 8PM! The night will feature a variety of games and challenges – like Jeopardy/Sardines/Show-n-Tell/Midnight Movie - and we plan to do a Manikin Challenge!

A couple the items you will want to bring:

- A snack to share
- Drinks for yourself
- Bedding
- Something meaningful to you (for Show-n-Tell)

PS – We still need a couple more adult volunteers for this event. If you are willing to help, please contact Barbara at 402-475-6702.

## Mark Your Calendar

### **Wednesday, Dec 14th**

Children's Pageant Rehearsal

From 6:30-7:25pm

### **Saturday, Dec 17th**

Children's Pageant Rehearsal

From 9:00-11:30am

### **Sunday, Dec 25th**

Worship - 10:30am ONLY

### **Wednesday, Dec 28th**

No WOW

### **Sunday, Jan 1st**

Worship - 10:30am ONLY

### **Wednesday, Jan 4th**

No WOW

## **2016 Poinsettia Order Form**

**Share the joy of Christmas!** Order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one to be displayed in the chancel on Christmas Eve. Please specify all information on the form below and return to:

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**Attn: Marge**

**2110 Sheridan Blvd Lincoln NE 68502**

Cost of each poinsettia is \$15. Please make checks payable to Westminster and write POINSETTIA on the memo line. Orders must be received by Dec 21st to be included in the order of worship.

(PLEASE PRINT)

\_\_\_\_ I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s).  
and/or

\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a cash donation to the Westminster Library.

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I will take my poinsettia home.

\_\_\_\_ The Deacons may deliver my poinsettia to the elderly.

# Children & Family Ministry

## Faith Village on Sundays

*Then the angel told Mary, "Do not be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High." Luke 1:30-32*

**Christmas is Coming!** 9:00am and 10:45am - for Advent we will rotate through Art, Computer and Storytelling workshops on The Angels Announce God's Message, as told from Joseph and Mary's perspectives. There will not be class on Dec. 18th - children who are not involved in the Christmas Pageant will be invited to watch a video after the Children's Conversation and return to sit with their parents for the pageant.

### Middle School - Lincoln Escape Room

Sat, Dec 10th from 10:45AM – 12:15PM

Lincoln Escape Room (3700 S 9th St)

\$29.00 per participant

The Lincoln Escape Room (<http://lincolnescaperoom.com/>) is a mental adventure game in which our youth group will solve a series of puzzles, riddles, and clues in an attempt to escape within 60 minutes. Are you up to the challenge? Room sizes are limited – so you need to sign up in advance. Check your email for a message from the church about how to sign-up and pay online for this event. Also, our adventure begins at 11AM sharp. If you are late, they cannot let you into the room – so plan to show up a little early!

### Senior High - St Nick Shopping & Pizza

Sat, Dec 17th from 5:30PM – 8:00PM

Shopko/Valentinos (27<sup>th</sup> and Highway 2)

\$15.00 (details below)

We are suggesting a donation of \$5-\$10 per youth, but feel free to donate as you are called. We will see how much we have to spend, and then spend some time shopping as a group for the gifts. Any remaining funds will be donated to the St Nicks program to go towards other families. Afterwards, we plan to step next door to Valentinos and enjoy dinner together. So please bring a few extra dollars for food.

### Faith Village Volunteer Opportunities

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me...for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" Matt. 19:14). It's time to set up winter/spring schedules for Faith Villagers! The children would love to have YOU lead a workshop for a month (fun and very user-friendly material), or Shepherd them every other week for 3 months (no preparation). You will be trained, assisted, and supported. Please contact Barbara for more information at 402-475-6702.

### Sudanese Rides

The Outreach Team is working on getting a team together to give rides to the Sudanese children so they may attend the 9am Faith Village at Westminster. Please contact David Szabat at 402-475-2555 for more information or to volunteer for this program.

# Congregation News & Westminster on Wednesday (WOW)

Join us weekly for great food, education, music and more!  
Dinner is served from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. in Cole Hall.  
\$4/children, \$6/adults, \$17 max per family.

**WOWXL** (6:30 Youth Cafe) Youth in grades 6-8 meet weekly during the school year for engaging activities and to grow in faith together.

**Stories Become Us** - Join us for our WOW Advent Journey, inspired by the NPR radio program "The Moth." We will explore storytelling as a means of sharing our personal stories and our faith journeys.

## Music Rehearsals

(6:20) Westminster Carillon (Adult Handbell Choir, Sanctuary)  
(6:30) Cherub Choir (age 3-Kindergarten, Room 210E)  
(6:30) Alleluia! Amen! Choir (Grade 1-5, Room 210)  
(7:30) Westminster Choir (Adult Choir, Sanctuary)

## WOW Dinners

### ***December 7th:***

Pork Loin, Mashed Potato's and Green Beans

### ***December 14th:***

Alfredo Pasta, Garlic Bread Sticks and Broccoli

### ***December 21st:***

Chili and Cinnamon Rolls

***December 28th: NO WOW***

***January 4th: NO WOW***

## Foundation Birthdays

### **November 2016**

Phyllis Pauley	Barbara Schliesser
Steve Titus	Tami Wellmann
Katie Whitehead	Maddie Whitehead

***Thank you for your support of the  
Westminster Foundation.  
Happy Birthday!***

## All in the Family

**Marriages:** *Correction - Ashley Amend and Bryce Ficken married on October 15th.*

**Births:** Congratulations on the birth of Murphy Joanna, born Oct 11th, to Mallory and Brandon Kage; and Whitley Alan, born Nov 10th, to Traci and Erik Nore.

**Baptisms:** Isaac Douglas, son of Katelyn and Patrick Tschetter on Nov 13th.

**Bereavements:** Comfort for the family and friends of Hank Hinrichs, who died on Oct 26th.

**Knit N Sit** will again this year donate to the People's City Mission the following items they have made:

- \* 1 Adult vest
- \* 2 Baby blankets
- \* 2 Collars
- \* 2 Princess crowns
- \* 5 Child sweaters
- \* 7 Toys
- \* 17 Bibs
- \* 17 Child hats
- \* 25 Scarves
- \* 56 Adult hats

If you have any yarn to donate, we can always use it.  
We can do amazing things with your donations.

# Adult Education

## Sunday Class - *Images of Christmas*

Join us Sunday mornings during Advent for an informative (sometimes funny, sometimes serious, and a little unorthodox) exploration of key images of the Christmas story – the star, the Magi, and the angels. Reflecting upon passages in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, we will discuss what is known about these Christmas icons and how each has been represented in art and popular culture. **May we be filled with wonder and joy as we approach the Christ child, Immanuel, this Advent season!**

Dec 4th	“The Magi”	Presented by: Steve Larson
Dec 11th	“The Angels”	Presented by: Steve Larson and Sandi Larson
Dec 18th	“Christmas sans Hallmark”	Presented by: Rev. Shelbourn

## Westminster Bible Class

Bible study is a perfect way to begin the year. Why not make that commitment this Advent? Westminster Bible Class is an open class, drop in as you wish or stay for the whole quarter. During the month of Dec we will ready ourselves for Christ’s coming and birth. Lessons from the Gospel of Luke will focus on persons involved in the biblical drama. Won’t you join the group meeting in the parlor at 9 a.m. each Sunday?

### Unit 1 (Dec) The Savior Has Been Born

DATE	SCRIPTURE	THEME	LEADER
Dec 4	Luke 1:26-38	God Promises a Savior	Kent Wolfe
Dec 11	Luke 1:39-56	The Affirmation of the Promise	Bill North
Dec 18	Luke 1:1-23, 57-66; 2:1-20	The Forerunner of the Savior; The Savior has been Born	Steve Carveth

## January Community Conversations - “The Influencers”

Join us on Sunday mornings in January as we dialogue with those who influence and shape our community.

Jan 8th	Senator Kathy Campbell, NE State Legislature
Jan 15th	Dr. Steve Joel, LPS Superintendent
Jan 22nd	Pastor Tom Barber, People’s City Mission
Jan 29th	Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries



# Small Groups & Upcoming Events

For more information or a list of current Small Groups, contact Geoff Cline at [geoffcline@mac.com](mailto:geoffcline@mac.com).

## World on a Plate

**Fri, Dec 9th from 6-8pm in Cole Hall**

Food! Fellowship! Learn about Presbyterian missions world wide! You are invited to join this unique and award-winning small group activity. Bring a holiday-themed food from a country or region of your choice to share with friends old and new. In addition to food and sharing hospitality, we'll have a short program featuring Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn, and select the countries we'll "savor" in 2017. Going forward, we'll organize into small groups of 6-8 for a monthly meal, taking a closer look together at the world and the work of Presbyterians. It's a great way to make friends and join in the life of the church. Find our sign up sheet in the Garden Room and help plan our menu, or contact Kathy Karsting at [kathyk1984@msn.com](mailto:kathyk1984@msn.com), or Karen at [karenkmcmanus@aol.com](mailto:karenkmcmanus@aol.com) for more information. Bon Appetit!

### History Buffs

#### **Count Von Zeppelin's Flying Machine**

Sat, Dec 10th at 9:00am

Bruce Sheffield will give the history of dirigibles and the tragedy of the Hindenburg. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Ladies Night Out (LNO)

Mon, Dec 5th from 5-7pm

Toast (570 Fallbrook Blvd #105) Invite your friends for fellowship and special appetizers, plus drink cost, tax and tip. All ladies are welcome — No RSVP required. Contact Robyn Uebele ([robynu2@hotmail.com](mailto:robynu2@hotmail.com)) with questions.

### Sausage, Eggs and Scripture

Sat, Dec 17th at 7:30am

Perkins (121 N 48th St)

Join the 18 men that meet with Rev. Shelbourn for a dynamic Bible study on the letter to the Ephesians. For more information contact Jimmy at 402-475-6702.

### Prairie Readers

Wed, Dec 21st at 1:00pm

This will be our annual Holiday Party. Everyone is welcome to join in the conversation and fellowship.

### Lunch Bunch

Tues, Dec 6th at 11:30 am

Tanners Bar and Grill (8600 South 30th)

Come for fellowship and good food. All are welcome. Call Larry Wieskamp at 402-802-6883 with any questions.

### Green@Heart

Planning begins soon for Westminster's month-long Creation Celebration next spring. Your ideas and spirit are welcome and needed, and you can be involved as much or as little as you choose. Contact Laurel Van Ham Pappas, 402-484-8467 or [lvham@!windstream.net](mailto:lvham@!windstream.net).

## Presbyterian Women (P.W.)

Presbyterian Women's Circles are the small groups based on study, friendship, and action. All Westminster women are invited to visit any of the following circles.

### Circle 3

Wednesday, Dec 7th at 10:00 am  
Wendy Coffman (402-477-8987)  
3025 Sheridan Blvd (02)

### Circle 4

Monday, Dec 5th at 7:00 pm  
Joyce Douglas (402-489-6627)  
Green Gateau (330 S 10th St)

### Circle 5

Tuesday, Dec 13th at 10:00 am  
*Westminster Lounge*  
Pat Hackley (402-423-2909)

### Circle 6

#### **No Meeting in Dec**

Jane Hines (402-488-8302)



♦  
SPIRITUALLY ALIVE  
BROADLY INCLUSIVE  
GROWING IN MISSION

2110 Sheridan Blvd.  
Lincoln, NE 68502  
402.475.6702  
westminsterlincoln.org

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## *Candlelight Christmas Eve*

Share the joy of our candlelight Christmas Eve.

Bring a friend, a loved one, an acquaintance.

Share the hope and love Christ brings to the world.



### **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

3pm Family Service: Ensembles

5pm Traditional Service: Nebraska Brass,  
Westminster Brass, Alleluia! Amen!, Cherub Choir, Jr. String Ensemble

7pm Contemporary: The Rising Band

9pm Traditional Service: Nebraska Brass, Westminster Brass,  
Westminster Carillon, Westminster Choir

### **Christmas Sunday (Dec 25<sup>th</sup>) & New Year's Day (Jan 1<sup>st</sup>)**

10:30am Worship Service ONLY

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