

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent

Lincoln-Lohmen Partnership Service

Today's worship service is a live partner service with our friends in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lohmen, Germany. Westminster and the Evangelical Lutheran Church have been partners in learning and service since 1985. Our service is an opportunity for us to begin re-engaging in partnership together in this meaningful season of Advent!

Prelude

O Heiland reiß die Himmel auf

Advent Candle Lighting

Jim and Judy White

Call to Worship and Confession

Deacon Faye Moulton

One: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, our light and our salvation.

All: Amen.

One: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

One: Just and gracious God,

All: We come to you for healing and life. Our sins hurt others and diminish us; we confess them to you. Our lives bear the scars of sin; we bring these also to you.

Show us your mercy, O God. Forgive us our sins and free us to love for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: The apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our sins, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross." Jesus says to you, "Your sins are forgiven." Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for you.

All: Amen.

Welcome

Rev. Michael Schleinitz and Rev. Chris Peters

Prayer of the Day

Rev. Chris Peters

Special Music

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Plainsong chant, translated by Thomas Helmore

Public domain

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily:
to us the path of knowledge show;
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. [Refrain]

Scripture

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:1-6

N.T. pg. 60

The Word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Special Music

"Every Valley" from *Messiah*

by G.F. Handel

Jeremy Duck, soloist

Every valley shall be exalted,
And every mountain and hill made low;
The crooked straight,
And the rough places plain.
Isaiah 40:4

Affirmation of Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Deacon Faye Moulton

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Mini-Sermons

"Pave the Way"

Rev. Michael Schleinitz (read by Rev. Chris Peters)

"The Power of Invitation"

Rev. Chris Peters

Special Music

"Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)" from *Messiah*

by G.F. Handel / arr. David Music

Jeremy Duck, piano & John Ross, organ

Prayers of the Church

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 debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Charge

Rev. Chris Peters

Benediction

Rev. Michael Schleinitz

Postlude

“Die Nacht ist vorgedrungen”
Tochter Zion

Flowers are given in loving memory of Sally Wilson Roper by Lou Roper and family.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our Infant Room is available. This is located off the narthex through the West/Sheridan-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the narthex, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

There is a large basket near the Sheridan Street doors where your offering can be placed following the service.

If you don't want to take your bulletin with you, please dispose of it in the recycling basket as you exit the sanctuary.



*"I am the vine,
you are the branches . . ."*

The week of Dec. 5, 2021

*Westminster Presbyterian Church is an inclusive faith family, inspired by Jesus Christ,
to call, nurture, and empower disciples.*

Lohmen / Lincoln Joint Worship Today

We will have a live worship service with our partner church in Lohmen, Germany this morning. This service is taking place thanks to an invitation from our Lohmen friends to re-engage our partnership even as we continue to navigate the reality of a pandemic.

Advent Workshop Today

We invite you to join us at the Advent Workshop in Fellowship Hall immediately following worship to renew friendships, to enjoy cookies and crafts, and to make lasting memories.



Faith Village

We begin our journey through Advent this week, preparing for the birth of Jesus.

Sunday Youth Group

The Youth Group will be assisting with the Advent Workshop on Sunday morning and will not meet Sunday evening.

Youth Sermon Set-up will resume on Dec. 12.

Wednesday Nights | 5:30 PM

We continue our Escape from Bethlehem series and explore what happened when Mary and Joseph tried to find a place to stay in Bethlehem. Preschool and Faith Villagers will be making graham cracker nativity scenes.

The Youth Group will finish up the "Like Me" series by discussing what Paul says about living life outside of the "if only" mindset.

Taize Advent Worship on Wed. | 5:30 pm | Chapel

The Adult Education Committee is offering a devotional opportunity on the first three Wed. evenings during Advent. It will be a 30-minute service of reflective music and prayer, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. The time will feature one or two simple songs, silence, and a bidding prayer in the chapel.

Adult Education Advent Study | Dec. 12 & 19

Pastor Chris will lead a two-week class reflecting on ordinary objects that we find in scripture and in our own lives. This will be using the book *Advent in Plain Sight* by PC(USA) Pastor Jill Duffield. Join us after church in Fellowship Hall.

Order Your Poinsettias

Make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one to be used to purchase poinsettias for Christmas Eve. There are order forms on the table at the east entrance and in the Dec. Messenger.

Christmas Eve worship services will be held on Friday, Dec. 24, at 5 pm and 7 pm in the sanctuary.

Rev. Dr. Don McCall, formerly a pastor at WPC, passed away on Nov. 30. There will be a Memorial Service on Dec. 11 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison, WI. Barbara's address is 242 Junction Rd., Apt. 37, Madison, WI 53717-2103, if you'd like to send a card.

Green@Heart Recycles Again!

Don't send styrofoam or non-functional Christmas lights to the landfill. We will gather these items at the church again and deliver them to special recycling centers for YOU! There is a designated drop-off box at the east entrance.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Last Christmas, Westminster started a Reverse Advent Calendar project, which supports the Westminster Food Pantry. Instead of 'taking' something each day, we have the opportunity to 'give' a food item during each day of Advent. We had a wonderful response last year, and plan to do this as an annual focus each Advent season. There are copies of the calendar at the table near the east door or you can click on the link in the eVine. These are suggested items based on the weekly food packages we provide through the Westminster Food Pantry.

YOUR SESSION IN ACTION

November 2021

- In our monthly inclusion discussion, agreed to updating the process for marriage approvals to include more Session involvement at the recommendation of Pastor Chris. The wedding manual is being reworked and these changes will be included.
- Approved the transfer of membership of Cosette and Gary Greer to First Presbyterian Church of Gothenburg at their request.
- Our financial situation is healthy overall. Elder Gwen Thorpe shared a "first go" at the 2022 budget. She stated that, for 2021 YTD October, 61% of the budgeted revenues for the year had been collected and 67% of the expenses incurred.
- Approved a motion to recommend the slate of elders and deacons to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting held on Nov. 11, 2021.
- Passed a motion that the Vision Implementation Task Force and Branding Task Force be under the responsibility of the A & P (Administration and Policy) Committee. These committees are temporary in nature and will evolve into a permanent committee for marketing.
- Approved the January 30, 2022, worship service for the ordination and installation of newly elected elders and deacons.
- Elected Margaret Sprude as Clerk of Session for 2022.
- Decided that once Lancaster County moves to yellow COVID status, WPC will add masked congregational singing at the end of services, and when it drops to mid-yellow WPC could add a short hymn in the middle with the congregation in masks.
- Trained all elders in attendance on ushering.

Angel Tree

All the tags have been taken off the Angel Tree. Remember to return your unwrapped gifts by Dec. 12 and thank you!

Week Beginning December 5

<p><u>Sun. (5)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship / with Lohmen, Germany 9:40 AM Faith Village/ Nursery 10:40 AM Advent Workshop 12 Noon Sudanese Worship</p> <p><u>Mon. (6)</u> 11 AM Explorers Study Group, Parlor 5:30 PM Worship & Music, Lounge 6 PM Mission & Outreach, FH 7 PM Circle 4</p> <p><u>Tues. (7)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Personnel, Conference Room 5 PM Adult Ed, Lounge</p>	<p><u>Wed. (8)</u> 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Lib. 5:30 PM Wed. Activities 5:30 PM Advent Taize Service, Chapel 5:30 PM Bell Rehearsal, Sanctuary 6:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Lib. 7 PM Bible Study, Zoom 7 PM Virtual Choir Rehearsal</p> <p><u>Sun. (12)</u> 9:15 AM Youth Sermon Set-up 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship/ Communion 9:40 AM Faith Village/ Nursery 10:45 AM <i>Advent in Plain Sight</i> Study, Fellowship Hall 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 7 PM High School Youth Group</p>
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Week 48 Giving \$4,098
YTD Giving \$543,802
Weekly Budget \$ 11,250
YTD Budget \$540,000

Televised Worship

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.
Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

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