

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE



December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lessons & Carols, Children & Youth

Prelude “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” by Aaron David Miller

Welcome Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting

Matt & Brooke Larson Family

One: When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

All: You crept in beside us.

One: And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might do something different.

All: Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

One: Will you come into the darkness of today’s world; not the friendly darkness as when sleep rescues us from tiredness, but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped believing that war will end or that food will come or that a government will change or that the Church cares?

All: Will you come into that darkness and do something different to save your people from death and despair?

One: Will you come into the quietness of this place, not the easy quietness as when friends hold hands, but the fearful silence when the phone has not rung, the letter has not come, the friendly voice no longer speaks, the doctor’s face says it all? Will you come into that darkness and do something different?

All: Will you come into the dark corners and the quiet places of our lives?

One: We ask because the fullness of our lives depends upon us being as open and vulnerable to you as you were to us, when you came, wearing no more than diapers, and trusting human hands to hold their maker. Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do something different? When the world was dark and the city was quiet you came.

All: You crept in beside us.

One: Do the same this Christmas, Lord. Show us that hope is:

All: Trusting that there is light, even in the dark. (*light the candle of hope*)

One: That peace is:

All: The wolflyng down with the lamb. (*light the candle of peace*)

One: That Joy is:

All: Contagious sounds of Alleluia. (*light the candle of joy*)

One: Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

All: The Messiah is coming. Let us live in love. Amen.

***Hymn #147**

The First Nowell

First Lesson | Let's Go to Bethlehem

***Call to Confession**

***Kinesthetic Prayer of Confession**

God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

...Let us respond together, using the words from Mary's song:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.” (Luke 1:46:55 NRSV)

***Passing of the Peace**

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Chat

Sarah Baltensperger

Second Lesson | The Annunciation

Special Music

“Mary, Did you Know”
Isaac Hemmerling

Third Lesson | Travel

Luke 2:1-7

***Hymn #121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Fourth Lesson | Wouldn't It Be Grand to Be an Angel?

***Hymn #113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

Fifth Lesson | On Discomfort

Isaiah 9:2-7

***Hymn #106**

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Respond | Moment of Gratitude

Respond | Prayers of the People

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.***

***Hymn #107** **Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

***Charge & Benediction** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Postlude "Improvisation on *People Look East*"

*Please rise in body or spirit for these parts of worship.

Today's words in worship include liturgy and adaptations from *Words for Worship by A Sanctified Art LLC* | Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | sanctifiedart.org, as well as original words by Rev. Chris Peters.

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 entry foyer through the Sheridan Blvd./West-end sanctuary doors. When you enter the foyer, turn to your right, where the door will be open.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and the sanctuary elevator exit. Look for the signs that read "Giving Basket."

For online giving, scan the QR code.

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



Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Music Director: Ronnie Zanella

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Robyn Uebele, Leslie Miner, Stacy Graham

Greeters: Katie & Leo Zulkoski



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

The week of Dec. 18, 2022

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

Angels in the Christmas Story | Lounge | 10:40 AM

The Adult Education Class in the Lounge today will feature "Fixtures in the Christmas Story: Angels." Pastor Jimmy will delve into the Hebrew Bible's take on "Angels." The classes will be at 10:40 to 11:30.

Advent Study: A Branch Shall Grow | Parlor | 10:40 AM

Have you ever thought of Advent as a time of growth? Have you ever wondered if your neighbor would welcome an invitation to attend church with you? Isaiah begins chapter 11 with "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." What if we understood that that shoot, the Messiah, was calling us to be sharers of the Word not just hearers?

Dec. 18 *Immanuel, God with Us*: Romans 1:1-7 – Matt. 1:18-25

Christmas Eve Worship

There will be two worship services at WPC on Christmas Eve, 5 pm and 7 pm. Both services will have brass, Westminster Choir, and candle lighting. The services will be live-streamed and also available to watch later.

Christmas Day Worship

The worship service on Christmas Day will be available on the church's YouTube channel beginning at 9:30 AM. There will not be a service in the sanctuary on Christmas Day.

Join Others in Reading the Bible in a Year

Join with fellow Westminster-ites in small groups or individually to read the Bible in the year 2023. Marijane England will be the facilitator and serve as a resource for group leaders. Check the Garden Room on

Sundays or contact Marijane England at marijane.England@gmail.com. More information can be found in *The Messenger*.



Matt Talbot Kitchen and Outreach Family Service Opportunity

Are you are looking for an opportunity for your family to serve? Sign your family up for an evening at Matt Talbot here:

<https://forms.gle/gqmdsmiWbdRqVJJW8>.

Questions? Contact Susie Hughes at skh@eskays.com.

Tis the Season to Recycle!

Westminster's Green@Heart is once again collecting Styrofoam packaging and broken string lights for recycling. We can't accept disposable food containers or packing peanuts but start now saving those blocks of foam that come with your purchases and gifts. And as you decorate, hold on to the lights that no longer work. Together we can keep piles of wire and white stuff out of the landfill. Drop-offs for both foam and lights start the week after Christmas. Watch the eVine for more information.

REMINDER TO IRA OWNERS AGE 70 ½ OR OVER: QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS ARE GREAT OPTIONS FOR MAKING TAX-FREE GIFTS TO the Westminster Foundation.

IRA owners age 70 ½ or over can transfer up to \$100,000 to Westminster Foundation (or other charities) tax-free each year. These transfers, known as qualified charitable distributions or QCD's, offer eligible older Americans a great way to easily give to the Westminster Foundation.

Normally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. With the QCD's, however, these distributions become tax-free as long as they're paid directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization like Westminster Foundation.

The trustees of the Westminster Foundation are grateful for the generosity of our church family over the years, and appreciate your consideration of donating to the Westminster Foundation.

Ladies' Night Out - Tuesday, December 27 | 5-7 PM

LNO will be gathering at Well & Good at the Scarlet Hotel on Innovation Campus 2101 Transformation Drive. As always, feel free to bring a friend, sister, aunt, daughter or mother to all our gatherings. Hope you can make it! Please RSVP to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com. Text or call Robyn 937-935-6858.

The Gathering Place, located at 1443 E Street, provides a nutritious evening meal seven days a week for people who may have few resources. Westminster has had this as a mission for a number of years, with a team who serves the meal, which is prepared by the Gathering Place staff. This mission is part of Mission/Outreach's response to "When were you hungry?" in our community. Each month, on the 2nd Friday, we send our team of 6 to 8 volunteers to serve from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. We are inviting YOU to join our team. To volunteer or for information, contact Carolyn Harp, charp3@neb.rr.com or 402-261-6897.

Reverse Advent Calendar Return Schedule

Following are dates and times that you can return your Reverse Advent Calendar items when you would find the church open.

Sun., 12/18	morning
Tues., 12/27	9 am – 1 pm
Wed., 12/28	10 am – 2 pm
Thurs., 12/29	10 am – 2 pm
Sun., 1/1	morning

Christmas Schedule

Dec. 24, 5 PM & 7 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Services Brass, Choir and Candle Lighting Sanctuary and Live Stream
Dec. 25, 9:30 AM	Christmas Day Worship Service Live Stream Only (no sanctuary worship)
Dec. 26	Church Building Closed for Holiday
Jan. 1, 9:30 AM	Sanctuary Worship with Communion and Live Stream

Youth Group Tonight

The Youth Group meeting tonight from 6:30 to 8 PM will focus on fellowship. Join your church friends to talk, play games, do homework together, or just hang out.

Week Beginning December 18

<p><u>Sun. (18)</u> 9:30 AM Sanctuary Worship 9:40 AM Nursery 10:40 AM Advent Study—A Branch shall Grow, Parlor 10:40 AM Advent Study—Angels, Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 6:30 PM Youth Group 7 PM Recital, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Mon. (19)</u> 10 AM Private Group, Parlor 6:30 PM Scouts Den/Pack Meetings, Cole Hall</p> <p><u>Tues. (20)</u> 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 7 PM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library</p>	<p><u>Wed. (21)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 5:30 PM Westminster LiNK, Cole Hall, Youth Christmas Party 6:30 PM Hearts & Hands, Library 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Sat. (24)</u> 5 PM Christmas Eve Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream</p> <p><u>Sun. (25)</u> 9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship Service, video only</p> <p><u>Mon. (26)</u> Building Closed for the Holiday</p>
--	--

Week 50	\$15,017
YTD Giving	\$548,489
Weekly Budget	\$10,970
YTD Budget	\$548,509

Televised Worship

Thurs. at 12:30 pm/Sat. at 1 pm.

Channel 1302/Spectrum & Channel 13/Windstream.

joanne@westminsterlincoln.org

402-475-6702