



THE MESSENGER

December 2024



SUNDAY SERVICE

We welcome you to Worship in the Sanctuary with us on
Sundays at 9:30 am
and/or
worship virtually with us on our YouTube channel at
<https://westminsterlincoln.org/youtube-videos>.

A MESSAGE TO THE CONGREGATION

Westminster Family,

From Pastor Chris

This note is being penned – or, rather, typed – shortly before the start of Advent, just a few days before Thanksgiving. I’m in a bit of a reflective mood this month, so in the spirit of one of our members who shares “Sunday Notes” on Facebook (Thanks, Pat!), here are my “Year-End Notes” of gratitude and hope as we enter the last month of 2024.

- This past Sunday we ended worship with the reminder, “you are enough,” and our Moment of Gratitude was for our congregation. As we transition into the merriment, hope, sounds, tastes and smells of the holiday season, I wanted to reiterate my gratitude for our congregation. In all seasons you have been supportive of our work together, willing to try new things like Service of Service and A Sanctified Art worship series. (More on our Advent series a few notes down!). Your care for Westminster and welcome of this blended SC/GA family, now with a silly toddling native Nebraskan, has meant the world to me... and to us. Thank you!
- This fall has flown, hasn’t it? This fall we marked the beginning of year five together. From the strangest Installation service ever in the parking lot to today, it has been quite a journey. I think that’s been touched by God’s grace all along the way. This fall I also marked 10 years of ordained service and 22 years of church work. I wonder what milestones you experienced this fall. Whether they’re milestones of joy or they’re bittersweet, I’d love to hear from you about your own milestones heading into winter.
- Advent 2024 will find us in the Words for the Beginning series from A Sanctified Art. Here’s a little about the theme from their team: Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ’s birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ’s birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ’s story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.
- Every church I’ve served before Westminster used purple for Advent. I’ve got to say, I really love our choice of blue. The stole (scarf-looking thing pastors wear) I started wearing last year is from a liturgical artist and purchased with a kind gift for my 2-year celebration from the Foundation. It might be my favorite of all my stoles, and not just due to the color.
- Stewardship season continues this year, with a slightly later pattern, which was intentional. In addition to the Messenger, you should receive a stewardship packet this week. I hope you’ll join us on Sunday, December 8th for Commitment Sunday, our Advent Celebration after worship and another baptism! What a joy and a privilege we have had celebrating five baptisms of little ones in November and December!
- May we all, with joy and hope, look toward the good news of great joy for the little one we will celebrate at the end of Advent. I hope to see you soon in worship and on Christmas Eve at 5:00 and 7:00pm.

With Gratitude,
Pastor Chris

**Hearts & Hands | Church Library | Wednesdays at 1:30 – 3:00 PM**

Hearts & Hands is a fun-loving group that meets every Wednesday in the church library. All needle work folks are welcome to come visit and see what you're missing! Laughter is free. All yarn donations are welcome! Questions? Call Franci Scheele, 402-310-4212.

Lunch Bunch | The Eatery | Tuesday, December 3, 11:30 AM

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, December 3, 11:30 A.M., at The Eatery Restaurant, 2548 S. 48th Street. This restaurant is finally open on Tuesdays and we are excited to return. We have the private room. Please RSVP to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

We look forward to seeing you,

Jim and Rita Kinkennon

Faith and Cancer Support Group | Tuesday, December 17 | Library at 7 PM

Finding comfort and peace after the diagnosis of cancer is often very difficult, to say the least. However, sharing that uneasy feeling with others who have been on that journey can be a surprising and helpful new dimension. Here at Westminster Presbyterian Church our support group is based on three specific features: sharing laughter, sharing burdens, and sharing blessings. All are welcome. Contact Bruce Sheffield at 402-783-0394.

Ladies' Night Out | Tuesday, December 17 | 5 – 7 PM at Billy's

You are invited to join us this month at Billy's 1301 H. Street. Feel free to bring a friend to this iconic Lincoln hang-out! We want to have a seat at our table for you, so please RSVP by Sunday, December 15th to Robyn Uebele at robynu2@hotmail.com. Or text or call Robyn at 937-935-6858.

THE MESSENGER (USPS 680-440) PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2110 SHERIDAN BLVD., LINCOLN, NE 68502. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT LINCOLN NEBRASKA. \$2 SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2110 SHERIDAN BLVD., LINCOLN, NE 68502.



Advent/Christmas Schedule

Dec. 1, 9:30 AM Advent 1 Worship—Words for the Beginning:

You Are a Blessing

Dec. 8, 9:30 AM Advent 2 Worship—Words for the Beginning:

We Can't Go Alone

Commitment Sunday

10:45 AM Advent Workshop: Baked Goods Auction, Chili Cook-off, plus Advent activities for all ages!

Infant to Pre-K Parent Connection Time

Dec. 15, 9:30 AM Advent 3 Worship—Words for the Beginning:

Lessons and Carols

Dec. 18 (Wed.) All Church Caroling

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Dec. 22, 9:30 AM Advent 4 Worship—Words for the Beginning:

Hope is Worth the Risk

Dec. 24, 5 & 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship with Candle Lighting

Dec. 25 Christmas Day—Office Closed

Jan. 1, 2025 New Year's Day—Office Closed

Advent Workshop | December 8

10:45 AM-12:00 PM

Celebrate Advent at the Advent Workshop with crafts, carols, chili, and cocoa. Come make an ornament, sing some carols, choose the new winner of the coveted Silver Ladle, and stock up on baked goods from Youth Group Mission Baked Goods Auction.

Call for Baked Goods | December 8

Advent has arrived! The Youth Group will be sponsoring a baked goods auction at the Advent Workshop again this year to support various mission initiatives throughout the year. We are again calling for our talented and creative bakers to donate something special to the cause. Cakes, pies, brownies, bars, breads, or anything you would like to make is welcome.

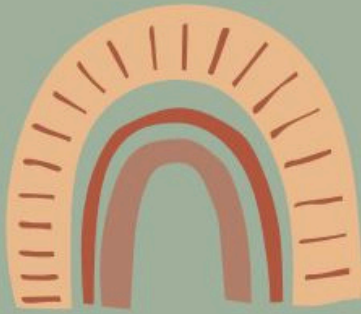
Contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or complete this form <https://shorturl.at/h8tmd>. Please indicate ingredients if possible. Master creations can be delivered between 10-2 on Friday or on Sunday morning the week before the Advent Workshop.

All Church Caroling | December 18

5:30 PM-6:30 PM

Join us for caroling through the neighborhood! We will leave church at 5:30 and finish up with hot cocoa and cookies in Cole Hall. Help us to share with our neighbors the HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE of Advent.





Westminster Preschool



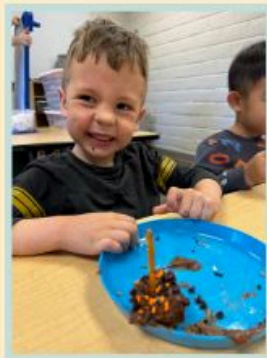
December 2024



PRESCHOOL NEWS

It is another busy season for our Preschool! We are trying to balance Christmas Program practice with learning about Community Helpers.

Our Christmas Program this year will be have all the characters from the stable. We're singing several animal songs as well as some classic Christmas carols.



UPCOMING DATES

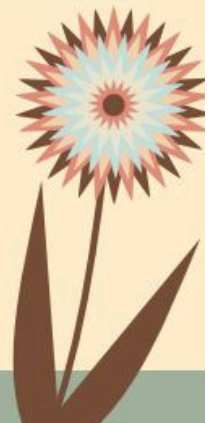
Nov. 26th-30th
PRESCHOOL CLOSED
Happy Thanksgiving!

Dec. 4th/5th
Gingerbread Workshop

Dec. 10th
Christmas Program
6:30 PM

Dec. 19th
Polar Express Pajama Party

Dec. 28th- Jan. 5th
PRESCHOOL CLOSED
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!



Environmental Justice

Too Much or Too Little—Water Justice

In his Sermon on the Mount Jesus reminds us that the rain falls on the just and the unjust. Unfortunately, we can say the same about violent storms, floods, droughts, and wildfires. These events are increasingly extreme due to the impacts of climate change. Now, more than ever, we need to heed God's call to tend and to keep the creation that has been entrusted to us. Stopping climate change is going to take us a lot of hard work on public policies and industrial practices. And meanwhile, those suffering the consequences of too much or too little water need our help. Your Environmental Justice action for December is to check out Presbyterian Disaster Relief <https://pda.pcusa.org/>

W3 Welcome to Westminster on Wednesdays

Wednesday nights are a wonderful opportunity for kids to get together with their friends and have fun learning about God. Kids from kindergarten through high school meet from 5:30 PM-8:00 PM.

5:30 PM-6:00 PM Open gym time

6:00 PM-6:30 PM Dinner in Cole Hall

6:30 PM-8:00 PM Activities in Faith Village and Youth Group.

If you have children younger than elementary age, please let me know--trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163--if you are interested in having them join us on Wednesdays -- we will have special activities available just for them.

We will not meet on Wednesdays from December 25-January 1.

Sunday Faith Village | December 29

9:45 AM-10:30 AM

On December 29 in Faith Village, we will bid good-bye to the current year with a Pajama and Cupcake Fondue party. Wear your PJs to church and we will enjoy cupcake fondue while watching a movie.

Youth Group: Christmas Carol/Bake Sale Baking | December 7

2:00 PM-6:00 PM

Join us on December 7 at 2:00 PM for a performance of A Christmas Carol at Lincoln Southwest followed by an afternoon of baking for the YG Mission Bake Sale. Please let Trish know (trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163) if you plan to attend so we can obtain the correct number of tickets.

Youth Group: Angel Tree Shopping | December 11

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Youth Group: Christmas Party | December 15

6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Youth Group: Lock-In | January 3-4

Youth Group will not meet December 25-January 1.

We will have our annual winter lock-in January 3-4. Plan to play games, eat snacks, and hang out with friends all night at church. We start at 8:00 PM on January 3 and finish at 8:00 AM on Saturday, January 4.

All youth who plan on attending must register here <https://shorturl.at/QuTmp>.





2024 Poinsettia Donation Form

Share the joy of Christmas! This year we will be ordering poinsettias to place in the sanctuary for the Christmas Eve services. You can make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, to be included in the bulletin for Christmas Eve.

The donation level is \$15. Please make checks payable to Westminster and write POINSETTIA on the memo line. Donations must be received by Dec. 11 to be included in the order of worship. There is also an option to donate to the Westminster Library.

Mail your check and the information specified below to:

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Attn: Joanne

2110 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68502

_____ I would like to donate \$_____ toward the purchase of poinsettias.

_____ I would like to donate \$_____ to the Westminster Library.

Given by:

In memory of:

In honor of:

Amount enclosed: \$_____

52nd Holiday of Trees on Dec 4 & 5

The 2024 Holiday of Trees, sponsored by the Heritage League of Lincoln, will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM on Wednesday, December 4, and from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Thursday, December 5, 2024. Admission is a donation of \$1 or more at the door, and further donations may be made by shopping at various booths. This family-friendly event will benefit the CEDARS Carriage House for pregnant and parenting teens as the major recipient. More information may be found on The Heritage League Facebook Page.

The Holiday of Trees will feature 21 beautifully decorated trees by community organizations, including CEDARS, as well as a Pantry of baked goods, Jewelry, Books & Media, Attic Treasures and a selfie booth. Santa and Mrs. Santa will be available for photos throughout both days. Food will be available at the Café, and there will be a Raffle of special items at 3:30 PM on Thursday. Musical entertainment will be provided continuously by local musicians, teachers of the Lincoln Music Teachers Association and students.



Westminster
Presbyterian Church
2110 Sheridan Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68502

Thank You

Thanksgiving and Thank You

Presbyterian Women are filled with gratitude for Westminster's participation in the annual collection for the **Lincoln Hygiene Network**. Needs are met and dignity restored all over Lincoln. Westminster collected **2,565 hygiene products** in the barrel at the top of the east stairs. That's an AMAZING amount. Added to that is the 1,000 travel hygiene kits that were assembled at the Service for Service on October 20 and some additional monetary donations. Giving is at the heart of our love for GOD and gratitude is our response.

Thank You Westminster!