

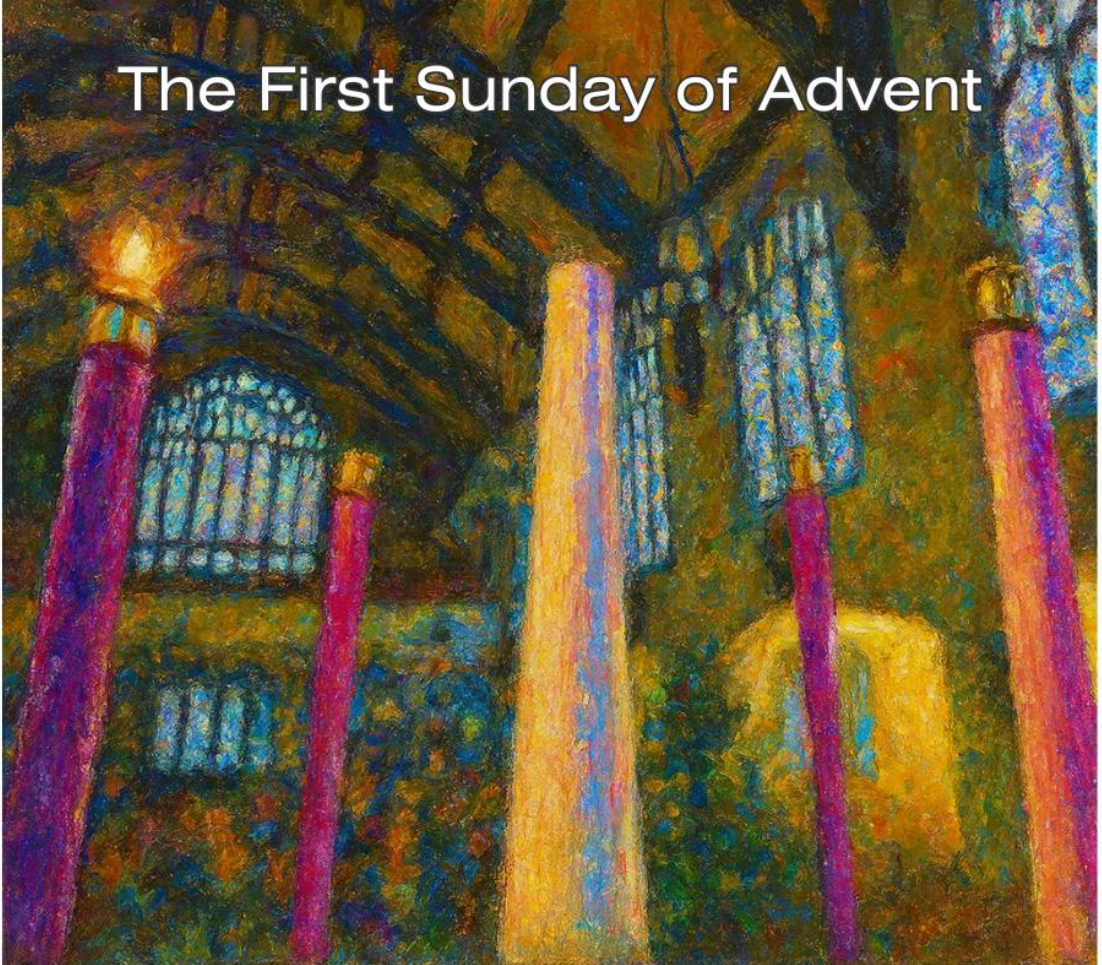
Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

The First Sunday of Advent



Please rise in body or spirit for the parts of worship with an asterisk () before the title.
Parts of worship that are ***bolded and italicized*** are for all worshippers to read together aloud.

Prelude "Improvisation on 'Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending'"

Welcome Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Mission Moment: Stuff the Truck & Christmas Joy Offering Deacon Gary Haller

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Hope Candle

***Invitation to Worship (based on Matthew 24:36-44)**

One: Keep awake. Be ready. For the Son of Man is coming.

All: Thanks be to God! We will worship and prepare.

***Hymn #82** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

***Call to Confession** Charles Duncon

***Prayer of Confession**

Prince of Peace, the wars and rumors of wars betray our addiction to violence, our destructive and dehumanizing ways. We deserve your judgement and condemnation. Yet, you remain faithful, a steadfast source of peace amid our warring madness. Holy God, turn us from evil. Return us to Christ and his path of peace, mercy, justice, and love. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

Lord, hear our prayer. ***Amen.***

Response to Confession #132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (verse 3)

***Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!***

***Assurance of Forgiveness** Rev. Chris Peters

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #113** Angels We Have Heard on High (verse 1)

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

***Passing of the Peace**

Rev. Chris Peters

Please share a sign of welcome and inclusion that is mutually comfortable (high five, handshake, fist/elbow bump) with your neighbors. At this time, children in K-5th Grade are invited to be dismissed to Faith Village, our children's education time.

May the peace of Christ be with you. ***And also with you.***

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Hebrew Prophets

Isaiah 2:1-5

O.T. pg. 631

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

N.T. pg. 27

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

Sermon

The Act of Waiting: Waiting for the End

Rev. Liz Kocher

Lutheran Center Campus Minister

***Hymn #102**

Savior of the Nations, Come

***Prayer of the People / Lord's Prayer**

Rev. Chris Peters

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.

Invitation to the Offering

Charles Duncan

Offering & Choral Anthem

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Arranged by Timothy Kile and edited by Dan Forrest

***Hymn #606**

Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Charles Duncan

***Hymn #92**

While We Are Waiting, Come

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Liz Kocher

Postlude

“Prelude on HYFRYDOL” by Healey Willan

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's candle lighting liturgy is written by Pastor Chris.

Service liturgy is adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook, Order of Worship: First Sunday of Advent 2025*.

Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor of the Presbyterian Outlook.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a Children's Worship bag or blue Infant Bag in the Narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). A nursery is available for kids under 5. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available at the north end of the Narthex.

Giving to Westminster's Mission and Ministry

At Church: We have resumed giving through an offering in our worship service, leaning on the theology of offering as a response of gratitude to God's word in worship. Checks may be made out to Westminster Presbyterian. General donations go to support the annual budget of the church, which includes Children/Youth support, staffing, building use, worship, and mission. You may also place an offering in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located near the exits. Look for the baskets and signs that read "Giving Basket." Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service. **For online giving,** scan the QR code.

Ministers: The whole congregation

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

Liturgist: Charles Duncan

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Stephan Biheng, Paul Korslund

Ushers: Erika Schafer, Brian Lammers, Dan Schafer, David Anderson

Dishwashers: Lisa and Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng





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

The week of Nov. 30, 2025

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

Welcome Rev. Liz Kocher of the Lutheran Center. She will be preaching at the service today, as well as leading a time of "Getting to Know the Lutheran Center: An Introduction to Our Campus Ministry Community" at 11:15am in the Lounge.

Upcoming Adult Ed. Classes

Dec. 7 & 28: No Adult Ed.

Dec. 14: "Christ Emptying Himself: The Incarnation" led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Dec. 21: "Emmanuel: the Presence of God in Isaiah and Matthew" led by Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

2026 Giving Campaign

If you have not turned in your financial pledge, as well as your Time and Talent Form for 2026, there's still time. Turning it in soon will help the Finance Committee complete the budget. There are copies in the Garden Room on the table under the TV for anyone who needs one.

December Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 11:30 AM, at The Garage, 5551 S 48th. RSVP to jimkennon@gmail.com or text 402-290-5888.

Westminster Bell Ringers

Anyone who is interested in ringing with the Westminster Ringers, directed by Christopher Boilsen, please join us for rehearsals on Thursdays at 5 PM in the Bell Room at First Plymouth Congregational Church.

December Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will meet Dec. 17 at 1 PM in the Lounge. Bring your favorite treat and celebrate Christmas season with your fellow book lovers. Everyone is welcome!

Advent and Holiday Events

An Advent Weekday Study

Have you ever puzzled over the different accounts of the birth of Jesus in the Gospels? Each Monday during Advent a group of explorers will be meeting to discuss the Christmas accounts in the Four Gospels. This is your opportunity to experience how Christmas is observed in each, through this study written by Cynthia M. Campbell. We will compare each of the Gospels to homes that Christians visit. Together we will be challenged to see Christmas from the different perspectives offered in each house as they further reflect on the mystery of Jesus. Won't you join us in the library at 11 AM beginning Monday, Dec. 1?

Advent Workshop/Baked Goods Auction/Chili Cookoff/Christmas Decoration Swap | Dec. 7 | 11 AM - 12 PM

The Advent Workshop will be held on Dec. 7 after worship in Fellowship Hall, featuring craft-making, hot drinks, and cookie decorating. The WPC Youth Group will host a baked goods auction to support mission work. The annual chili cookoff will also take place, complete with cinnamon rolls. New this year is a Christmas Decoration Swap, with proceeds benefiting Youth Group missions and travel.

A Nebraska Brass Christmas | Dec. 7

Westminster is hosting a Nebraska Brass Concert on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 PM. It will feature festive holiday sounds. Tickets can be purchased at the door. They are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, children and students are free. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music!

Holiday Helper | Dec. 13 | 1 PM-4 PM

Need some time to buy gifts, kid-free? Need a few hours to yourself? Drop your kid(s) off for a few hours while you go and do what you need to do - Kiddos will get to enjoy some gym time, a planned holiday activity, and enjoy a little snack. \$10 per child or \$25 per family.

Preregister here <https://forms.gle/uvUEdpdj7YV1LFfV6>. Questions? Contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org or 402-570-0163.

Dec. 14, 10 AM Lessons & Carols/Christmas Program

Dec. 17, 5:30 PM Dinner, 6 PM Caroling, 7:30 PM Cookies

Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5 PM and 7 PM

Giving Back this Season

Call for Baked Goods | Dec. 7

The Youth Group is hosting a baked goods auction at the Advent Workshop and is seeking donated desserts to support mission projects. Bakers are invited to contribute any homemade items—cakes, pies, breads, brownies, etc.—and are asked to include ingredient lists if possible. Donations can be dropped off Friday between 10–2 or on Sunday morning before the Workshop. Interested volunteers should contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org

Stuff the Truck | Dec. 7

Sunday, Dec. 7, from 9 AM to 1 PM, Westminster will host our *Stuff the Truck* food drive. A gray pickup truck will be in the parking lot, and we invite you to bring non-perishable food items to support the Food Bank of Lincoln. This is a simple way we can live out our vision to expand our lives in faith, connect people deeply, and make a difference through service. Every donation helps feed families in our community.



Angel Tree

Once again, Westminster is partnering with the Salvation Army on the Angel Tree Project. Christmas and holiday gifts from the Angel Tree are given to children from low-income families. Gifts, toys, clothing, and much more are provided for children from infants to age 12. Starting Nov. 14, look for the Angel tree in the receptionist's desk area. Pick a tag from the tree and shop. Return the **unwrapped** gifts, with the tag attached to the bag, placing them under the tree. **Gifts must be returned to the church no later than Dec. 12.** Most people, especially children, look forward to receiving clothing and gifts over the holidays. Will you be someone's Angel? Thank you.

--Mission & Social Witness

Westminster's Gift to the Planet

Remember that there's an earth care-ful way to dispose of the Styrofoam that shows up at this gift giving time of year. WPC has been partnering with Plastilite Corporation in Omaha. Plastilite is a creator of some of that foam, but (thank God for them) they take it back and reuse it. The collection bin will soon appear by the east doors and will be there through February. Thanks in advance for the trouble it is to keep this material out of the landfill. **Note:** Must be clean and rigid. No food containers or egg cartons.

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser | Dec. 14 | 10 AM-12 PM

No time to wrap gifts? No problem — we have you covered. Bring your presents to church on Sunday, Dec. 14 and let our talented gift-wrapping specialists make your holidays easier. Drop off your unwrapped, clearly labeled gifts in the Garden Room before the service and pick up

your beautifully wrapped packages after the service. \$3 to \$7 per gift, depending on shape and size. Proceeds will help the WPC Youth Group's mission work and travel.

Week Beginning November 30

<u>Sun. (Nov. 30)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship <u>Mon. (Dec. 1)</u> 11 AM Advent Study—Pastor Ellen, Lounge 6:30 PM Circle 4, Parlor 7 PM Recovery Group, Library <u>Tues. (Dec. 2)</u> 9 AM Holiday of Trees Set up 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Ed, Conference Room <u>Wed. (Dec. 3)</u> 10 AM Holiday of Trees 10 AM Circle 3, Lounge 1 PM Communion Visits 1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Library	5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Youth Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal <u>Thurs. (Dec. 4)</u> 10 AM Holiday of Trees 5 PM Westminster Ringers Rehearsal, First Plymouth <u>Fri. (Dec. 5)</u> 2 PM Josh Whitfield ISP, Lounge <u>Sat. (Dec. 6)</u> 4 PM Lambda Chi Alpha, Sanctuary <u>Sun. (Dec. 7)</u> 10 AM Worship; Faith Village; Equal Exchange Coffee 11:15 AM Advent Workshop, FH 12 Noon Sudanese Worship 2 PM Nebraska Brass Concert, Sanctuary; Reception in Fellowship Hall
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincoln/streams>