

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent



The Second
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 “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme” by J.S. Bach

Welcome Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Mission Moment: Christmas Joy Offering Deacon Gary Haller

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Peace Candle
Jason, Megan, Porter and Kendall Woita

***Invitation to Worship (Isaiah 11:1-3, Common English Bible)**

One: In those days John the Baptist appeared in the desert of Judea announcing,

All: “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!”

One: He was the one of whom Isaiah the prophet spoke when he said:

All: The voice of one shouting in the wilderness, “Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight.”

One: Let us worship God with hopeful singing!

***Hymn #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1 & 2, 6 & 7)**

***Call to Confession** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into our world – not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold new ways of faithfulness. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of turning back to you, so we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. 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. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Passing of the Peace** Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn
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 11:1-10 O.T. pg. 640
Gospel Reading Matthew 3:1-12 N.T. pg. 2
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Act of Waiting: Waiting for Fulfillment **Rev. Chris Peters**

***Hymn #163 Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and of the People / Lord's Prayer** Gary Haller
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.

Sanctuary 99th Anniversary Reflection

Invitation to the Offering Gary Haller

Offering & Choral Anthem “The Wexford Carol” arranged by Linda Spevacek

“The Wexford Carol” echoes the faithful waiting of those who longed for Christ’s coming, reminding us that God fulfills His promises in His perfect time.

***Hymn #606** *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.* **Doxology**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gary Haller

*Hymn #95

Prepare the Way of the Lord

*Charge & Benediction

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Vom Himmel hoch” by Johann Pachelbel

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's candle lighting liturgy and the Prayer of Thanksgiving following the offering are written by Pastor Chris. Service liturgy is adapted from *The Presbyterian Outlook, Order of Worship: Second Sunday of Advent 2025*. Rev. Ginna Bairby, Pastor, First Presbyterian, Taos, New Mexico.

Flowers are provided by Stan Campbell and Marybell Avery in celebration of their 38th wedding anniversary.

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: Gary Haller

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Kelly Braswell and Valery Wachter

Ushers: Diana Wild, David Anderson, Debra Schleining, Gwen Thorpe

Dishwashers: Kelly Braswell and Dorrie Gage

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng





*“I am the vine,
you are the branches . . .”*

The week of Dec. 7, 2025

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

Westminster Presbyterian Church - Lincoln
2110 Sheridan Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68502
(402) 475-6702 | westminsterlincoln.org

P R E S E N T S

Christmas EVENTS

CHRIST IS BORN!

Come Experience Christmas at Westminster Lincoln

NEBRASKA BRASS IN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7 DECEMBER AFTERNOON 2:00 PM

BUY TICKETS AT THE DOOR BEGINNING AT 1:00 PM | Westminster Sanctuary

LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH YOUTH AND CHOIRS

14 DECEMBER MORNING 10:00 AM

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE SHARED THROUGH WORD, MUSIC, AND DRAMA

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

24 DECEMBER EVENING 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM

WORSHIP WITH MESSAGE, WORD, AND MUSIC | Featuring Choir, Organ, Brass, and Handbells

Experience the true joy of
Christmas. All are welcome
at these special services!

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Advent and Holiday Events

Advent Workshop/Baked Goods Auction/Chili Cookoff/Christmas

Decoration Swap | Dec. 7 | 11 AM - 12 PM

The Advent Workshop is today 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 | 2 PM

Tickets can be purchased at the door. They are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, children and students are free. Come and enjoy the 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.

December Prairie Readers | Dec. 17 | 1 PM

Bring your favorite treat and celebrate Christmas season with your fellow book lovers. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday Evening Activities on Dec. 17

5:30-6:00 PM Caroling—Meet in the Garden Room

6:00-6:30 PM Dinner—Cole Hall

6:30-7:00 PM Preschool Christmas Program—Sanctuary

7:00-7:30 PM Cake & Punch Reception—Fellowship Hall

7:15-8:00 PM W3 Stories/Games—Youth Room/Faith Village

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 each Monday during Advent?

Giving Back this Season

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.

Did you know...

It took 23 amazing volunteers and 59 total hours to "Hang the Greens" and transform our sanctuary for Advent? What a beautiful reminder of how much love and teamwork goes into preparing for this holy season.

Upcoming Adult Ed. Classes

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

Week Beginning December 7

<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	6 PM Mission & Social Witness, Lounge
	<u>Wed. (Dec. 10)</u> 1 PM Communion Visits 1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Lib. 4:30 PM Foundation Marketing 4:30 PM Foundation Finance 5 PM Foundation Board, Lounge 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Youth Activities, Youth Areas 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
<u>Mon. (Dec. 8)</u> 11 AM Advent Study—Pastor Ellen, Lounge 6 PM Session, Lounge 6:30 PM Children, Youth and Family, Zoom 7 PM Recovery Group, Library	<u>Thurs. (Dec. 11)</u> 9 AM Friendship Home, FH 5 PM Westminster Ringers Rehearsal, First Plymouth 6 PM Lincoln Continental Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<u>Tues. (Dec. 9)</u> 10 AM Circle 5, Lounge 4 PM Stewardship & Finance, FH 5 PM Building & Grounds, Lounge 5 PM Personnel, Zoom 5 PM Church Life, Conference Rm 5:30 PM Worship Music & Fine Arts, Fellowship Hall	<u>Sun. (Dec. 14)</u> 10 AM Worship, Lessons & Carols with Youth & Choirs 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/@WestminsterLincolnstreams>