

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

December 14, 2025

Third 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

“Cradle Song” by Henry Ley

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Joy Candle

Kris, Beth, Holden, Hadley &
Phoebe Anderzhon

***Invitation to Worship (Isaiah 35:1-2a, NRSV)**

Voice One: In God’s vision, “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

All: the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

Voice Two: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

All: And rejoice with joy and singing.”

Voice One: Let us give thanks to God with joyful worship!

***Hymn #133**

O Come, All Ye Faithful (verses 1 & 4)

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you share mercy and peace with us. Yet as we look toward the manger, we recognize our own division, distance, and unwillingness to value our neighbors’ dignity. Forgive us and reset our hearts for more generous living. Jesus would grow to teach us to love God and love neighbor. Help us to better embody that teaching each day. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

... 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.***

Snapshots, Lessons and Carols

First Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Snapshot One

Choral Music

Bring a Torch / Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. by Dan Goeller

Second Lesson

Matthew 1:18-23

Snapshot Two

Snapshot Three

*Hymn #145

What Child is This (verse 1)

Third Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Snapshot Four

*Hymn #119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (verse 1)

Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Snapshot Five

Choral Music

We Three Kings

arr. by Russell Robinson

Fifth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Choral Music

Mary's Lullaby

by Boyd Bacon

Snapshot Six

*Hymn #134

Joy to the World (verses 1 & 4)

Invitation to the Offering

*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 and of the People/Lord's Prayer Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

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 #115**

Away in a Manger

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus” by George Frideric Handel/arr. John Kinyon
Westminster Choir & Friends

Flowers are provided by Bill and Joan Roberts in celebration of their 55th 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

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Greeters: Stephanie & Scott Rogers

Ushers: Marybell Avery, Joan Roberts, Marilyn Hood, Barbara Wright-Chollet

Dishwashers: Lisa & Steve McConnell

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter & Stephan Biheng





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

The week of Dec. 14, 2025

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



Advent and Holiday Events

Adult Ed. Classes in December | 11:15 AM | Lounge

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

Dec. 28: No Adult Ed.

All Church Caroling | December 17

Join us as we carol through the neighborhood on Wednesday, December 17! We will meet in the Garden Room at Westminster at 5:30 pm. After caroling, we will share a meal in Cole Hall, and then all are invited to attend the WPC Preschool Christmas Program in the sanctuary.

Schedule for 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

6:30-8:00 PM **Westminster Choir Rehearsal**--Chapel

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

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

Please help us to share with our neighbors the HOPE, LOVE, JOY and PEACE of Advent.

December Prairie Readers | Dec. 17 | 1 PM

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

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

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.

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.

Did you know...

Stuff the Truck was a huge success!

Our Westminster family donated 473 pounds of non-perishable food and contributed \$115.00 in monetary gifts to support the Food Bank of Lincoln. Thank you for helping nourish our neighbors during this season of giving!



Faith and Cancer Support Group

Author and cancer survivor, Lynn Eib, describes the feeling of hearing the diagnosis of cancer like "driving down the road and hitting a patch of 'black ice.' I am out of control--scary!" The Westminster Cancer Support group is an informal place of safety from 'black ice' where we share laughter, burdens and blessings. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday each month at 10 AM in the Church Library. All are welcome. Bruce Sheffield 402-303-2363.

2026 Budget Pledge Campaign Update

As of Wednesday, December 10th, pledges stand at:

Total: \$509,209

Pledge: \$503,777 (\$3,777 above 2025 Budgeted Pledges)

Per Capita Pledges: \$5,432

- Per Capita is a per-member payment Westminster makes to other councils in our denomination, such as Homestead Presbytery, to fund the work of the larger church. WPC is asked to pay roughly \$40/member, or \$24,000+ annually, in Per Capita.

Week Beginning December 14

<u>Sun. (Dec. 14)</u> 10 AM Worship, Lessons & Carols with Youth & Choirs 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship	5:30 PM Caroling, Meet in the Garden Room 6 PM Dinner, Cole Hall 6:30 PM Preschool Christmas Program, Sanctuary 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Chapel 7 PM Cake and Punch Reception, Fellowship Hall 7:15 PM W3 Stories/Games, Youth Room/Faith Village
<u>Mon. (Dec. 15)</u> 11 AM Advent Study—Pastor Ellen, Lounge 6 PM Scouts Den Meetings, Cole Hall, Youth Café 7 PM Recovery Group, Library	<u>Thurs. (Dec. 18)</u> 5 PM Westminster Ringers Rehearsal, First Plymouth 6 PM Lincoln Continental Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 PM Camera Club, Lounge
<u>Tues. (Dec. 16)</u> 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 10 AM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library 6 PM Communications & Outreach, Lounge	<u>Sun. (Dec. 21)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village, Sanctuary 11 AM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship
<u>Wed. (Dec. 17)</u> 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Library	

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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