

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

January 4, 2026

Epiphany Sunday



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

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star” by Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

***Call to Worship (Isaiah 60:1-2)**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

One: Arise! Shine! Your light has come;

All: the Lord's glory has shone upon you.

One: Though darkness covers the earth

All: and gloom the nations,

One: the Lord will shine upon you;

All: God's glory will appear over you.

***Hymn #151**

We Three Kings of Orient Are

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, Light of the world, we confess that we have not resisted the shadows of sin. You deliver the poor and the helpless, but we have ignored their cry. You take pity on the weak and the destitute, but our hearts are hard in the face of their need. You heal the wounded and save the oppressed but we have placed our trust in the callous violence of war. Forgive us, we pray. Awaken in us sincere repentance that we may shine with the light of your saving grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Time of Silent Confession**

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

***Assurance of Pardon**

... Believe and share the good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation!

***Response of Praise #437**

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

You are the Christ, giver of mercy!

You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

***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 Scripture

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

O.T. pg. 533

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

N.T. pg. 2

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

Sermon

“New Beginnings: A New Understanding”

Rev. Chris Peters

***Hymn #147**

The First Nowell

Invitation to the Offering

Offering & Special Music

“Angels We Have Heard on High with
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” arr. Carl Seal

***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

The Lord's Supper

Invitation

Rev. Chris Peters

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

Blessing and Sharing of the Elements

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Prayer After Communion

***Hymn #145**

What Child Is This

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“March of the Three Kings” by Richard Purvis

Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from a mix of original liturgy by Pastor Chris, scriptures of the day, and Feasting on the Word Worship Companion (Editor: Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long)

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: Kelly Braswell-Burbach & Josh Whitfield

Ushers: Diana Wild, Debra Schleining, David Anderson, April Douglas

Dishwashers: Paul Korslund

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter

Communion Servers: Jaime Hemmerling, Jim Hlava, Rachel Hoffman, Marilyn Hood, Colton Graham





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

The week of Jan. 4, 2026

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

Adult Ed.

Community Conversations in January

- January 4: Rev. Ellen Davis will lead a reflection and discussion of the Bible Readings and sermon from Worship Service on this first Sunday of the new year.
- January 11: Irene Hargan, Director of Marketing and PR, will tell us about Lincoln's "Center for People."
- January 18: Charlie Wesche, CEO of NeighborWorks, will speak about affordable housing.
- January 25: Anne Brandt, Executive Director of Lincoln Littles, "Elevating Early Childhood."

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.

Monday Morning Bible Study

We will resume our study of the book "Inspired: Slaying Dragons, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans on January 12. We will meet in the library at 11 AM. January 5 will be a make-up of the last Advent Study on the Book of John.



Mission/Outreach is pleased to bring Equal Exchange Coffee and Equal Exchange Organic Chocolate to Westminster friends. The coffee you enjoy during the fellowship hour is also Equal Exchange. By choosing the Equal Exchange brand, we are making a strong statement about our values as a community.

Available for Purchase: We give the opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange products during Fellowship Hour after services on the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for supporting our ongoing

commitment to making these products available.

Prairie Readers

Prairie Readers will begin the new reading year on Wed., Jan. 21. We will meet in the lounge at 1 PM. Kathryn Govaerts will lead the discussion of *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Everyone is welcome.

January Tips from Green@Heart

Winter is a season of gathering and joyous celebrations, but it can also be a season of energy waste. Did you know 61-86% of home energy use is wasted, with the winter months being the worst? Small changes can make a big difference for the planet (and your utility bill)! Look here for a few easy, eco-friendly tips each week in January:

Seal the leaks: Check doors, windows, outlets, and corners for drafts. Weather stripping and expanding foam can help keep warm air in and cold air out.

Turn down your water heater: Heating water uses about 18% of home energy. Lowering the setting to around 120°F saves energy without sacrificing comfort.

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.

Summer VBS: Roadtrip! | July 14-18

VBS is back and we are hitting the road! Get ready to buckle up for an incredible journey! This summer, kids are invited to join us for Roadtrip!, our fun-filled Vacation Bible School adventure from July 14-18. We're taking off for a week packed with high-octane excitement as we explore the amazing destinations God has planned for our lives. Embark on an exciting journey with Road Trip VBS, based on Joshua 1:9 – "The LORD your God is with you wherever you go." Discover God's presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God's goodness together.

Every day will be a new stop on our journey, featuring engaging Bible stories, spirited worship music, hands-on crafts, hilarious games, and tasty treats, all designed to help children from 4 years through 5th Grade discover that following Jesus is the greatest adventure of all!

Event Details

- When? Monday, July 14 – Friday, July 18
- Time? 9:00 AM-12:00 PM (Daily)
- Who? Children 4 years-5th grade
- Cost? \$15 per child, maximum \$45 per family

What to Expect on Our Roadtrip:

- Fueling Up: Energetic opening and closing rallies complete with singing and cheers.
- Pit Stops: Small group time where kids connect with leaders and friends.
- Scenic Routes: Creative Bible lessons that teach kids about God's love.
- Roadside Attractions: Fun-filled games and crafts!

Registration:

Don't let your child miss the trip of a lifetime; register here <https://westminster-goodshepherd.mycokesburyvbs.com/register-child>. Keep an eye on our church website and weekly bulletin for the direct link to sign up. Space is limited, so reserve your seat on the Roadtrip! early!

We're also looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help navigate this epic journey! If you're interested in serving as a crew chief, station leader, or passenger (helper), please register at the link above or contact Trish at trish@westminsterlincoln.org.

Hearts, Hands & Hugs

Hearts and Hands got a name upgrade! Say hello to *Hearts, Hands & Hugs*—because they never leave a Wednesday gathering without sharing a hug. Hearts, Hands & Hugs is a fun-loving group that meets every Wed. from 1:30 – 3 PM, in the church library. Our mission is to knit and crochet items for the People’s City Mission—hats, scarves, baby items, toys, etc. We donate finished items in the fall before the holidays. 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 Dorrie Gage, 402-730-9676.

Week Beginning January 4

<u>Sun. (Jan. 4)</u> 9:30 AM Equal Exchange Coffee 10 AM Worship, Communion, Faith Village; Sanctuary 11 AM Undecorate Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship, Chapel	1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Library 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities Youth Areas - All
<u>Mon. (Jan. 5)</u> 11 AM Explorers Bible Study— Pastor Ellen, Library 6:30 PM Circle 4, Parlor 7 PM Recovery Group, Library	<u>Thurs. (Jan. 8)</u> 5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal, First Plymouth 6 PM Lincoln Continental Rehearsal, Sanctuary
<u>Tues. (Jan. 6)</u> 11:30 AM Lunch Bunch 5 PM Adult Ed., Conference Room	<u>Sat. (Jan. 10)</u> 11 AM Hughes Reservation, Cole Hall
<u>Wed. (Jan. 7)</u> 10 AM Circle 3, Lounge	<u>Sun. (Jan. 11)</u> 10 AM Worship, Baptism, Faith Village; Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship, Chapel

Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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