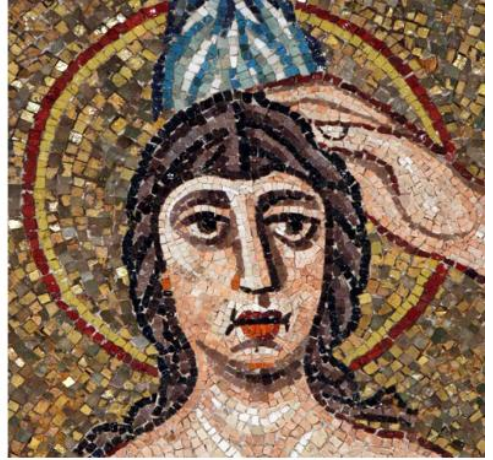


# Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

January 11, 2026

The Baptism of the Lord Sunday



Images from Vanderbilt Art Lectionary Library. Used with Permission via: CC0 1.0 Universal (CC0 1.0) Public Domain Dedication and commons.wikimedia.org. Clockwise from left: Xač'atur. Baptism of Christ (Monastery of Gamaliel 1455CE); Baptism of Christ (Arian Baptistry, Ravenna, Italy (5th-6th Century CE); and Zalenka, Dave. Baptism of Christ (2005)

\*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**

“I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry” by David Christiansen

## **Welcome**

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

### **\*Call to Worship** (Cites Gen. 1:1-2, Exod. 14:21, John 13:5, and John 4:29) Deacon Claire Titus

One: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

***Many: God caused later waters to part, freeing the captives from slavery.***

One: Jesus taught us to live by washing the disciples' feet.

***Many: Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman who was the first to claim that he was the Christ.***

One: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ, or Savior. Let us sing together with hope and joy!

### **\*Hymn #623**

**I've Got Peace Like a River**

### **\*Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

### **\*Prayer of Confession** (Inspired by Acts 10)

***God, you show no partiality, yet we are not always as tolerant or accepting. Forgive our intolerance, and help us to see as you see, that we may be found acceptable in your sight through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.***

### **\*Time of Silent Confession**

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

### **\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

... 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-5<sup>th</sup> 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.***

## The Sacrament of Baptism

**Imogen Frances Claire Sipp**

Child of Henry and Mattie Sipp

### Question of the Congregation

Elder: Do you, the members of Westminster, promise to love and nurture Imogen, to provide for her Christian Education, and to set an example of faithfulness, and to welcome her as a member of the body of Christ, the family of faith?

***All: We do. Imogen, we welcome you with joy and hope, energy and enthusiasm, laughter and communion, nurture and faith, love and acceptance.***

### Hymn #486

**Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (verses 1 & 4)**

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's call.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.**

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture

Epistle Reading

Acts 10:34-43

N.T. pg. 129

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

N.T. pg. 3

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

#### Sermon

“New Beginnings: A New Identity”

Rev. Chris Peters

### \*Hymn #480

**Take Me to the Water**

### Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer

Deacon Claire Titus

***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

#### Offering & Special Music

“Sing We Now of Christmas” arr. Mark Patterson

***“Sing We Now of Christmas” celebrates the coming of Christ into the world. On Baptism of the Lord Sunday, it reminds us that the child of Christmas is revealed as God's Son at his baptism, beginning his mission to bring light and love to all.***

**\*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**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

**\*Hymn #543**

**God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me**

**\*Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

**Postlude**

“Christ Our Lord Came to the Jordan” by Dietrich Buxtehude

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Liturgy Notes and Sources

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A: Volume 1; Advent through Pentecost*, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Bracken Long, Editor.

**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

**Liturgist:** Claire Titus

**Greeters:** Kelly Braswell & Paul Korslund

**Ushers:** Marybell Avery, Joyce Douglas, Kathy Anderson, Joan Roberts

**Dishwashers:** Stephen Odenole

**Sanctuary Audio & Livestream:** Dale Minter





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

**The week of Jan. 11, 2026**

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

This Sunday we continue our journey of "New Beginnings" – a series focusing on the ways God's grace calls us to new life – with Baptism of the Lord Sunday and a baptism of one of our own youngest disciples! We'll explore questions such as "Why did Jesus get baptized?", "Did Jesus's baptism change his identity?", and "What does our own baptismal identity invite us to do and who does it call us to be?"

Also, in some positive news, our 5:00pm Christmas Eve was the best attended single service in years – with 456 in attendance! Overall, Christmas Eve was the most attended and/or watched in the six Christmas Eves I've been blessed to be one of WPC's pastors! Thank you for making WPC your church home each time you're here! We're more the church God is calling us to be with each of our members and friends!

Rev. Pastor Chris

#### **Adult Ed.**

#### **Community Conversations in January**

- 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.

### **Prairie Readers January Meeting**

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.

### **Prairie Readers Book Change in February**

Prairie Readers will meet Wednesday, February 18 at 1 PM in the Lounge. Terri Wiksund will lead the discussion of *WAYWARD* by Emelia Hart. Please note the change in schedule. We will discuss *Dust Child* in March. Come and join us. 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:

**Switch your bulbs:** With shorter days, lighting matters. LED or CFL bulbs use 25–80% less energy, last longer, and are better for the environment.

### **Spring Break Vacation Bible School**

**March 9-11 | 9 AM – 12 PM**

#### **Puzzling Pyramids: The Ultimate Escape**

#### **PreK-4 through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Join archeologist and adventurer Colorado Smith as he seeks to unravel the mystery of the Puzzling Pyramids with the aid of some very helpful Egyptian animals he meets along the way. This ancient Egypt themed VBS will have kids learning about the early life of Moses and how God used him to help the Israelites escape their Egyptian slavery.

**Register online: <https://vbspro.events/p/wpspring26>**

**Usher and Greeter Training | Sunday, February 1 | 11:15 AM - 1:30 PM**

*A reminder to those who are currently greeters and ushers, although all who are interested are welcome to join the training.*

This is a friendly reminder about the upcoming Usher & Greeter Training at Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Date: Sunday, February 1



Time: 11:15 AM – approximately 1:30 PM

📍 Location: Westminster Presbyterian Church

🍟 Includes: Potato bar lunch

If you have not yet RSVP'd, please take a moment to do so. This helps us plan seating and food.

This training is designed to:

1. Support new and returning ushers and greeters
2. Build confidence and clarity in roles
3. Strengthen our welcoming, inclusive worship experience

If you have questions or need to RSVP, contact:

1. Janice - [janicerohw@yahoo.com](mailto:janicerohw@yahoo.com) or
2. April Douglas - [ajdouglas7929@gmail.com](mailto:ajdouglas7929@gmail.com)

Thank you for serving in this important ministry. We truly appreciate your time and care, and we look forward to seeing you on February 1.

### **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! 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](mailto:trish@westminsterlincoln.org).

## Week Beginning January 11

### **Sun. (Jan. 11)**

10 AM Worship, Baptism of  
Imogen Sipp, Faith Village;  
Sanctuary  
11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge  
12 Noon Sudanese Worship

### **Mon. (Jan. 12)**

11 AM Explorers Bible Study—  
Pastor Ellen, Library  
6:30 PM Children, Youth &  
Family, Zoom  
6:30 PM Den Meeting—Pack 61,  
Cole Hall  
7 PM Recovery Group, Library

### **Tues. (Jan. 13)**

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  
6 PM Mission/Social Witness, Lge  
6:15 PM A & P, Conference Room

### **Wed. (Jan. 14)**

1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs,  
Library  
5:30 PM W3 Wednesday  
Activities Youth Areas – All  
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal,  
Sanctuary

### **Thurs. (Jan. 15)**

5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal, First  
Plymouth  
6 PM Lincoln Continental  
Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Sun. (Jan. 18)**

10 AM Worship, Ordination and  
Installation of Officers, Faith  
Village; Sanctuary  
11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge  
12 Noon Sudanese Worship,  
Chapel

### **Mon. (Jan. 19)**

Church offices and Preschool  
closed for Martin Luther King,  
Jr. Holiday

**Worship services are available on-line at this link:**

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