

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after the Epiphany



Cover image by Jim Kinkennon. Used with permission.

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

“Arietta” by Thomas Kerr

Welcome

Please sign and pass the connection pad.

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 40:3, 5)

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

One: Sing a new song,

All: A song of thanks and praise,

One: For God has done wondrous deeds,

All: And is great beyond compare!

***Hymn #353**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

***Call to Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

***Prayer of Confession** (based on Isaiah 49:1, 3, 4, 6)

Mothering God, we have chased after foolish things, and we have spent our strength on vanity; our labor has been in vain. Deliver us from arrogance and forgive our self-concern, that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your dream. Through Jesus Christ, we pray. 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-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 Scriptures

Psalms 40:1-11

O.T. pg. 513

Gospel Reading

John 1:29-42

N.T. pg. 92

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

Sermon

“New Beginnings: A New Song”

Rev. Chris Peters

Ordination and Installation of New Officers

Elders being Ordained and Installed: Sam Baltensperger, Stephanie Laux, and Louisa McConnell

Elders being Installed: Marybell Avery, Marijane England, and Rachel Hoffman

Deacons being Ordained and Installed: Curtis Adkins, Susan Jackson, and Barb Ridder

Deacons being Installed: Martha Jo Brown and Judy Seward

Constitutional Questions of the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept these new elders and deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we agree to pray for them, encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ who alone is Head of the Church?

We do.

Invitation to the Offering

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

Offering & Special Music

“I Dream a World” by André J. Thomas

“I Dream a World” by André J. Thomas reflects the same hope and vision for justice that defined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy. Set to Langston Hughes’s poem, the anthem imagines a future free from hatred and inequality, echoing Dr. King’s dream of unity, peace, and dignity for 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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and of the People / Lord’s Prayer

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

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 #339**

Lift Every Voice and Sing

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Variations on NETTLETON” by Undine Moore

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.

The flowers are given by Joyce Douglas to honor the 2026 Westminster Session and Deacons and to thank them for the leadership they provide for us.

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: Sara Baltensperger

Greeters: Kathy Phillip & Josh Swanson

Ushers: Leslie Miner, Robyn Uebele, Marijane England, Gwen Thorpe

Dishwashers: Tom Pappas and Laurel Van Ham

Sanctuary Audio & Livestream: Dale Minter





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

The week of Jan. 18, 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 18: Charlie Wesche, CEO of NeighborWorks, will speak about affordable housing.
- January 25: Anne Brandt, Executive Director of Lincoln Littles, “Elevating Early Childhood.”

Artist Deb Kubik Back in February

The Westminster Art Committee is pleased to welcome the return of glass artist, Deb Kubik, during the month of February. Our Inaugural Art Show was May 11, 2025 with Deb’s garden art in our parking lot. We now have the opportunity to enjoy her “indoor” art pieces.

Deb is a full time contemporary warm glass kiln artist. Warm glass can replicate the delicacies of watercolor by using the tiniest pieces of glass frit to “paint” a landscape or a friendly bunny. It can be bold using colors to compliment any décor. Collect pieces for holidays or for year-round enjoyment. Each piece is a “one of a kind” piece of art to be treasured in your home.

Her unique art will be in the cabinets near the parking lot entrance as well as in the Gallery Hall. A Representative will be present on Sundays if you wish to purchase her beautiful art for your home.

Westminster Members – Pastor Chris has a new 402-area code cell phone #! Please either reach out to Pastor Chris or the church office for that number. It will also be updated into Realm and Realm Connect apps under his contact information. As always, if you have any questions or concern about a contact you receive from someone claiming to be a church staff member, please verify with the staff person or church office.

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 continue our study of the book "Inspired: Slaying Dragons, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again" by Rachel Held Evans on January 19. Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, we will meet at Pastor Ellen's home 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!

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.

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 or
2. April Douglas - 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.

Spring Break Vacation Bible School

March 9-11 | 9 AM – 12 PM

Puzzling Pyramids: The Ultimate Escape

PreK-4 through 5th 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>

Lunch Bunch at The Eatery

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, February 3, 11:30 AM, at The Eatery, 2548 S. 48th St. RSVP to jimkinkennon@gmail.com or text to 402-290-5888. We look forward to seeing you.

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:

Skip the street salt: Traditional salt harms waterways. Try safer alternatives like beet juice, cheese brine, or even pickle juice for icy walkways.

Week Beginning January 18

<p><u>Sun. (Jan. 18)</u> 10 AM Worship, Ordination and Installation of Officers, Faith Village; Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship, Chapel</p> <p><u>Mon. (Jan. 19)</u> Church offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday 11 AM Explorers Bible Study—Meet at Pastor Ellen's home</p> <p><u>Tues. (Jan. 20)</u> 10 AM Faith and Cancer Support Group, Library 6 PM Communications & Outreach, Lounge</p> <p><u>Wed. (Jan. 21)</u> 1 PM Hearts, Hands & Hugs, Lib. 1 PM Prairie Readers, Lounge 5:30 PM W3 Wednesday Activities Youth Areas – All 6 PM Police Training; FH, Parlor, Chapel</p>	<p>6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Thurs. (Jan. 22)</u> 5 PM Bell Ringers Rehearsal, First Plymouth 6 PM Lincoln Continental Rehearsal, Sanctuary</p> <p><u>Fri. (Jan. 23)</u> 5:30 PM Elder Retreat Dinner, Pastor Chris's Home 6 PM Scouts Pinewood Derby Set-Up, Fellowship Hall</p> <p><u>Sat. (Jan. 24)</u> 8 AM Scouts Pinewood Derby Race, Fellowship Hall 9 AM Elder and Deacon Retreat, Cole Hall and Lounge</p> <p><u>Sun. (Jan. 25)</u> 10 AM Worship, Faith Village; Sanctuary 11:15 AM Adult Ed., Lounge 12 Noon Sudanese Worship, Chapel</p>
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Worship services are available on-line at this link:

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