

Westmont Christian Church



DECEMBER 2024

**WITNESS**

**A Special Moment in Worship**

**Children & Youth Nativity**

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

**10:40 a.m.**

*Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!*





# FROM THE PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanksgiving is so underrated, but we pray you were all able to find time to be with family and to be thankful together. Certainly, this is not the only time we reflect with grateful hearts, but it is a time to be purposeful about it. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, we are reminded to be thankful always.

Psalm 107:1, “Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18, “In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

We are indeed a thankful church. We are thankful for God’s Word and intervention in our lives, and for His grace and mercy on sinners who do not deserve it. We are thankful for baptisms, new members, and new babies being born. We are thankful for roofs that no longer leak. We are thankful for the opportunity to celebrate 65 years of ministry here as Westmont Christian Church.

We are thankful for the *Good News Club*, where we have seen an incredible number of volunteers loving on kids and proclaiming the Gospel to them weekly. So far this school year, we have been able to witness nine children pray to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior! These kids are learning and growing in God’s Word, and it is exciting to see and hear what they remember and know. This is truly an exciting ministry opportunity to be involved in. Please reach out to the office or Bethany McCool if you are interested.

We are thankful to all who seek to see this church grow and thrive. The *Future Focus Campaign* is evidence of this. We look forward to what God will do through His people in caring for the congregation as we come to the close of 2024. This campaign will help us to start the new year in a positive financial position. Please pray about how you can contribute to this campaign before the year ends.

As we enter the Advent season in December, we continue that idea of being grateful for what God has done, is doing, and will do. We get to focus and narrow in our gratitude towards the best thing God has ever done: expressed His love towards us by sending Jesus.



1 John 4:9-10, “By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

As we approach the celebration of the birth of Christ, we lead up to it with weeks of anticipation which we call Advent. The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival.” This season is not only a time to reflect on Christ's first coming into the world as a baby in Bethlehem but also a time to anticipate His second coming in glory. In this sense, the Advent season helps us reflect on God’s work in the past, present, and future according to His truth.

The first theme of **Hope** helps us to remember that Jesus is the hope the Jews were waiting for according to the prophecies established in the Old Testament. He fulfills that hope in His birth, life, death, and resurrection. We also still express our hope in Christ’s return again and purposefully prepare our hearts with this hope.

The second theme of **Peace** helps us remember what is foretold in the Old Testament, that a Savior was to come to reconcile man back to God and create true peace. Jesus mentions this peace in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.” Jesus brings peace with Him in His coming, and we look forward to the ultimate promise of peace we will experience in eternity.

The third theme of **Joy** focuses on what we all receive through Christ. This is the good news of great joy that the Jews were anticipating as they awaited the coming of the Messiah. Christ continued to bring true joy as He proclaimed God’s truth and became the ultimate propitiation for our sins on the cross. This is the joy we receive now and in all eternity because of the person and work of Christ.

The fourth theme of **Love** reminds us of God’s love from the beginning of creation. Since the fall, God has revealed His love to His people, both Jews and gentiles. This love culminates in the incarnation of God on the earth, who goes to the cross because of His love for sinners. The love of God is anticipated and poured out on us through eternity because of the fullness of God’s expression of love in Christ. In this way, God’s grace and mercy flows forever.

Advent invites Christians to reflect, repent, and prepare their hearts, blending solemnity with the joyful anticipation of celebrating Jesus as the Savior of the world forevermore!

To God be the Glory!

Pastor Jarid McCool



## Help Us to Help You!



Incredible nursery care is provided by our two Childcare Providers. They are **Carolyn Wood** and **Samara Lambright**. Please thank them for their faithful and loving care that they provide for our small ones.

Please help us to help you! The age range for nursery children is *birth through 4 years*. If your child is **over 4 years of age**, he/she must promote to the older children's group. **There are no exceptions**. Also, unless asked by staff or a childcare provider to assist in the nursery, following a background check, please stay in the hallway to provide for the safety and security of our small ones and the Childcare Providers. Thank you!



Westmont Family,

**“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV**

I don't think a day has gone by that I haven't given thanks for being a part of this ministry and this congregation. As we finish packing up our Thanksgiving decorations and break out that box of ornaments for our trees, I pray we all continue to give thanks for the blessings the Lord so freely gives. November was a good month of growth for our youth! We suspended our forged curriculum to start a study on the life of David, had our first youth *Friendsgiving*, and began our preparations for the December nativity and other services. Stay on the lookout for more youth involvement in service this month! I am so grateful to be a part of a congregation that is so willing to invest in our youth; thank you all for your support! This December we are looking forward to our youth Christmas party and white elephant gift exchange, Nativity, Jingle Jam, and the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

If you have ever felt called to serve in a ministry, I would like to invite you to join our youth team on Wednesday evening and Sunday mornings. We need small group leaders on Wednesday evenings and an assistant teacher on Sunday mornings. Please prayerfully consider these ministries and contact me at the front office, in person, or via email.

Grace be with you,

Jesse Vera

Youth Minister

[jesse@westmontlubbock.org](mailto:jesse@westmontlubbock.org)



# January Board Meeting



**January 21, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Location: Church Library**

**Board Members, please email your monthly report!**

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Billie Gabel 04  
Michelle Fox 05  
Ralph Thorne 06  
Carla Terry 07  
Sheila Jones 10  
Stanton Keene 10  
Jordan Robinett 15  
Sheri Killion 16  
Cynthia McKenney 18  
Ruby Guerra 20  
Lynnlee McCool 24  
Jim Killion 29  
Russ Ropes 31  
CR E. Guerra 31

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

Richard & Terri Ralston 30



Westmont began the 2025 Stewardship Emphasis on Sunday, October 20, 2024. Each Sunday through November 24, 2024, we encouraged all to submit an 'Estimate of Giving' card.

These cards will now be used by Cheryl Steelman, Church Treasurer, to formulate a budget that will guide us throughout the church year. Your submission of the card will greatly assist in this process.

We so value the faithful giving of the Westmont Family and the Friends of Westmont. Thank you!

It is our mission to honor God with all gifts that are given to our church, and we are grateful for so many who give faithfully to support the ongoing ministries and mission of Westmont Christian Church. Thank you!

## **'FINAL' 2025 Estimate of Giving Totals**

**General Fund: \$166,790**

**Building Fund: \$29,300**

**Cards Submitted: 31**

*Please Note: Wednesdays @ Westmont will be suspended until January 15, 2025!*



We **love** our church chefs, and we are so blessed to have such a wonderful kitchen space to utilize for any event, scheduled or non-scheduled, that requires food-preparation! All of us that use the area comment on how blessed we are to have an amazing church kitchen! We really do!

**Please help us!** When you have completed preparing food for your activity or event, please assist others who will need the kitchen after you **by following a few simple steps:**

1. Remove all food items from flat surfaces and store or dispose of them.
2. Thoroughly wipe down and sanitize all flat surfaces including stoves and sinks.
3. Wash and put away all dishes and utensils utilized during your time in the kitchen.
4. Leave the kitchen clean. This is one way to honor what God has given to us!

 ***Thank You for helping us!***

## **PROP IS A FLOP!**

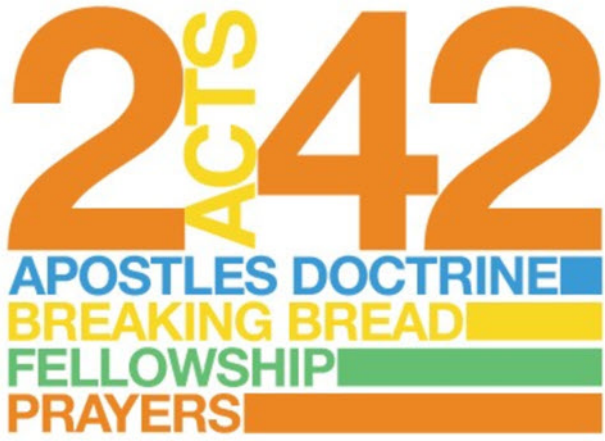
Thank you for helping us to **eliminate Door Propping** at Westmont. It is certainly the path of least resistance to provide access to folks coming to your event, but it creates **cascading problems!**

**Door Propping causes issues that include:**

- ~ Allows dirt, leaves and other debris to blow into our facility
- ~ Creates opportunity for door to remain unsecured after the event
- ~ Allows field mice, squirrels, & cats to enter our building which creates high extermination costs
- ~ Cooled or warmed air from the HVAC units is wasted

***Thank You for helping us!***





## Young Adult & Family 242

We cordially invite all young adults and families to the monthly 242 meeting on **Sunday, January 12, 2025** at Westmont. The dinner and study will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will conclude at 7:00 p.m.

Childcare will be provided as we study the Max Lucado book, "Anxious For Nothing."

Come. Enjoy! Be Blessed!



## Children's Moment Leadership

December 15	Nativity Play
December 22	Jarid McCool
December 29	Hollie

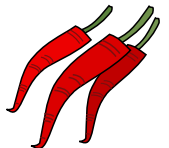


## Westmont's 2024 Chili Contest Winners

1st Place: Jan Keene

2nd Place: Christy Robinett

3rd Place: Jan d'Orsay



**STAFF BONUS:** Westmont employs eight (full & part-time) staff members to minister and manage the operations of our great church. Each year, our congregation expresses heart-felt appreciation to these men and women through a *Christmas Love Offering*.

Consider joining us as we show our love to them this *Christmas Season*. Your gift will bless each of our staff members as they assist us to celebrate the birth of our Savior during this Holy Season. Offering envelopes are provided in the pew racks for your convenience. Thank you for marking your donation "staff bonus." *Additional giving options include Church Website & PayPal.*





## Future Focus Campaign

**GOAL: \$100,000**

Total: \$33,508.61



Campaign ends on December 31, 2024.



**Westmont Family:** Thank you for your generous contributions throughout the 2024 church year. They have been such a blessing to our church and to the employees of Westmont. We are blessed and grateful.

We would ask that you please assist us as we close this year so that we may end the year in a strong way financially. It will be a great blessing to end the year 'in the black.'

Please be sure that we have your current email on file in the church office. Please submit all tithes and offerings by December 31, 2024 to receive IRS contribution credit. Thank you so much!



## No Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School at Westmont on the following Sundays:

**December 31, 2024 & January 05, 2025**

**Thank you!**



**Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

**6:00 p.m. - Westmont Sanctuary**

**Carols of Christmas**

**Scripture Reading**

**The Lord's Supper**

**Candle Lighting**





During the Advent & Christmas seasons, beautiful poinsettias adorn the chancel of our sanctuary. Thank you all for donating these beautiful flowers in Honor or in Memory of your precious loved ones.

**Jessica Carroll**

*Sheila & Tyler Donovan*

**Michael & Cindy Dunn**

*Our Moms*

**Bettye Griggs**

*Westmont Congregation*

**Katie Hargrove**

*Maxine Reynolds*

**Jan Keene**

*Bob Keene, Greg Keene, & Laura Barto*

**Anne Klein**

*John Klein*

*Todd, Manda & John Francis*

*Tom & Lyndee*

**The McCool Family**

*Jimmy Dirks, Longtime Elder*

**Cynthia McKenney**

*David, Carolyn & Richard Bilyea*

**Cheryl Moore**

*Rus Moore*

**Joel & Christy Robinett**

*Bob Siltman, Bill Robinett, Paula Fredrickson*

**The Sanchez Family**

*Our Children & Youth Volunteers*

**Nicole Satchell**

*Ann Duran*

**David & Ja'net Speich**

*John & Joan Speich/Mark & Katherine Hortenstine  
(Our parents who have passed)*

**Cheryl Steelman**

**The Toal Family**

*Grayson Ramos*

*Graham Ramos, Saegan Brinson,  
Sawyer Brinson*

**Jesse Vera Jr.**

*Jesse Vera Sr.*



**Joys & Concerns: Alan & Casey Kingston – Prayers for changes in our family and continued good health for our children. 12/8**

Mary Senn – Daughter, Kristi Senn Taylor, fell, has a concussion, and a broken shoulder. 12/1

Hollie – A little bit of me and a whole lot of God. Pray for my son, Robert. 12/1

Hansen Family – Praying for the McCool Family, their house flooded. 12/1

Sheila Jones – Continued prayers for my brothers, Kenneth, pneumonia, & Noel, cancer. 12/1

Jan Keene – May we all know Love, Peace, Hope, and Joy during this season of Advent. 12/1

Sabas Martinez – Please pray for our father, Jerry Cervantes. He is in hospital battling kidney failure. 11/24

Anne Klein – Brother, Francis Horne; Jan Sitton, healing. 11/10

Carla Terry – Older sister, Iris DeBruler, in assisted living, late stage of MS. 10/20

Chris Lopez – Dad, Paul, starts immune therapy soon. 12/1

Rick & Ronda Cartwright – Rick’s mom, Leona Cartwright, health concerns. 9/29

Michael & Cindy Dunn – Westmont’s Future. 9/29

Billie Gabel – medical. 9/8

Bettye & Larry Griggs – Larry’s health. 12/1

Terry Anglin – Sister, LaNita Scott- severe arthritis. 7/21

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**Continued Concern:** Nathan Kraus-medical; Carla Terry’s sister, Carol Nebb; Jill Watts’ Cousin, Debra Thomas; Ron McClellan; Dave Kraus; Terry Anglin; David Vartak; Roger Reynolds; Jan Fry; DR Congo Outreach; Continued prayers for our church family, Country, and our schools. Heal the hate in our world. Pray for the Nation of Israel. Pray for peace in Jerusalem.

**Military:** Lt. Col., Todd Anderson, M.D.; David & Ja’net Speich, 2 Nephews; Anne Klein Nephews, Alec & Ethan White

**Praise: Alan & Casey Kingston – Emmet is healing wonderfully. Thank you for all your love & prayers.**


**Terri & Richard Ralston – Friend, Debby Vartak, has a new job and her visa has been approved.**

Rylan Hughey – became a member of Westmont 11/24/24!

Larry Anderson’s son Todd has been promoted to Colonel!



WORSHIP SERVICE	ATTENDANCE
November 03	72
November 10	79
November 17	91
November 24	89
<b>November Average</b>	<b>82</b>




October '24	Financial Report	Y.T.D.
Income	\$23,963	\$254,244
Outreach	-\$1,178	-\$12,078
Expenses	\$46,303	\$288,483
Gain/(Loss)	\$23,518	<b>(-\$46,317)</b>

*Expressing God's Love*

*Inspiring God's People*

*Expanding God's Kingdom*

## MINISTRY TEAM

**Rev. Jarid McCool**, Senior Minister  
[Jarid@westmontlubbock.org](mailto:Jarid@westmontlubbock.org)

**Rev. Dean Roy**, Associate Minister-Administration & Music  
[Dean@westmontlubbock.org](mailto:Dean@westmontlubbock.org)

**Jesse Vera**, Youth Minister  
[Jesse@westmontlubbock.org](mailto:Jesse@westmontlubbock.org)

**Ruby Guerra**, Ministry Assistant  
[office@westmontlubbock.org](mailto:office@westmontlubbock.org)

**Jessica Johnson**, Custodian  
[Jessica.camp@rocketmail.com](mailto:Jessica.camp@rocketmail.com)

**Yijie Liu**, Pianist

**Carolyn Wood**, Childcare Provider

**Samara Lambright**, Childcare Provider

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m. Elders Meeting
- 9:15 a.m. Nursery Opens (birth - 4 years)
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- Instrumental & Media Rehearsal
- 10:40 a.m. Worship

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)

### **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/westmont.lubbock>

### **Westmont Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/westmontlubbock/>

### **Kid's Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/westmontkids/>

### **Youth Instagram:**

<https://www.instagram.com/westmontyouth/>

### **YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkrKlq7h5gte3CmWn9hJvw>

### **Website:**

[www.westmontlubbockj.org](http://www.westmontlubbockj.org)

