

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

December 17, 2023
Lessons and Carols

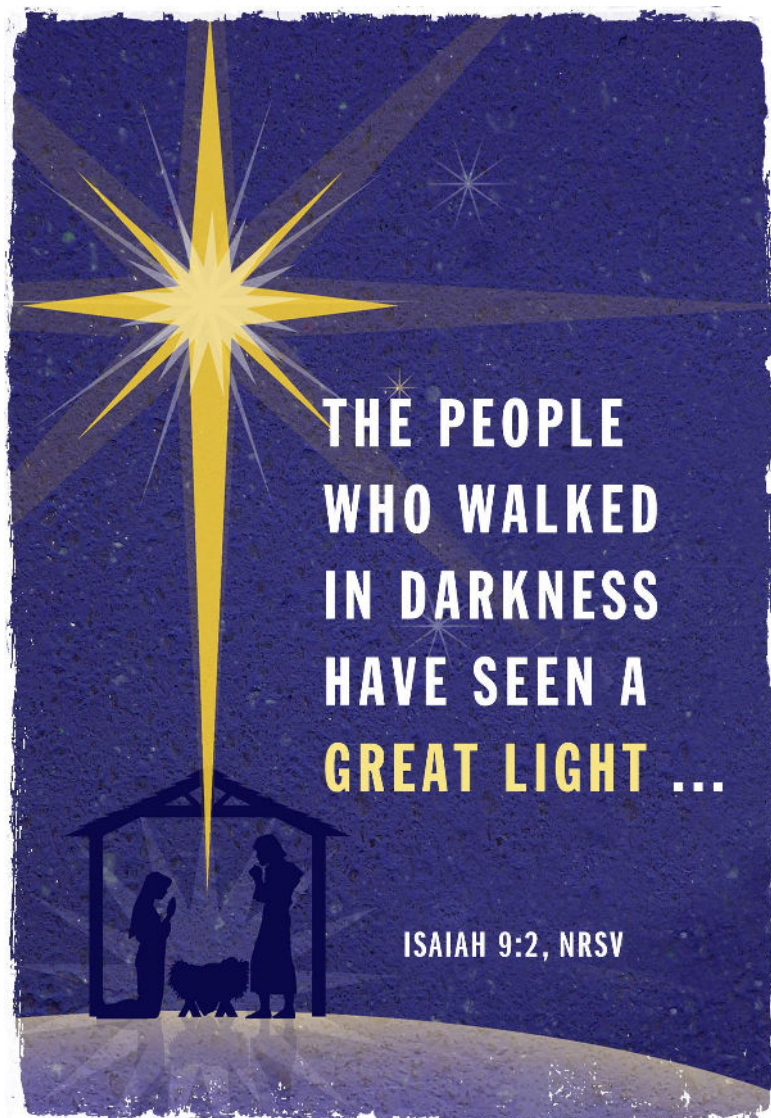
8:30 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Song Leaders: Dan & Kara Steward
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Greeter/Usher: Bill & Phyllis Nelson
Narrator: Carol Clymer

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dan Smith
Keyboardist: Mary K. Burns
Narrator: Jim Miller

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
Organist: Jan Malone
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley
Custodian: Scott Hoyt



**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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Joseph Rafique, Pastor
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*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



December 17, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (8:30 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30)
(11)

“Still, Still, Still” — arr. Mark Hayes
“Silent Night, Holy Night” — arr. M. Ijames

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Hymn #2090 (black, vs. 3)

“Light the Advent Candle”

Light the Advent candle, three: Think of heavenly harmony,
Angels singing “Peace on earth” at the blessed Savior’s birth.
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

WORDS and MUSIC: © 1975 Mary Lu Walker

Call to Worship (8:30 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

LEADER: God is in our midst, do not fear. God rejoices to renew our lives in steadfast love.

ALL: **God gathers us for this time of worship. God claims us and promises us a home.**

LEADER: Trust in God who is our strength and life. Give thanks to God, the source of our salvation.

ALL: **We will sing praises and exalt God’s name. With joyous shouts, we will tell of God’s glorious deeds.**

LEADER: Rejoice in God, whatever your circumstances. Remember the good fortune God has shared with you.

ALL: **We will not worry as we seek God’s peace. We open our hearts and minds to God’s leading.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer #895 (red, *Joseph*)

PASTOR: Let us offer our prayers and thanksgiving to God either silently or aloud. That we may seek Christ in the scriptures and recognize him in the songs we sing, let us pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray to God for the needs of the whole world, and all his people, for peace upon the earth, he came to save; for love and unity within the one church he did build; for good will among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who do not know the Lord Jesus or do not love. Let us pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: That God may bless all those who are on our prayer list and those who have personally asked us for prayer. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer**

PASTOR: These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught his disciples, saying:

ALL: **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

(Parts of this liturgy have been taken from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler and The Minister’s Annual Manual of Logos Production Inc.)

Lessons and Carols

“A Night of Hope, Wonder, Joy and Love”

Hymn #211 (red, 8:30)
(11)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
“I Hear the Prophet Callin’” — *Aldersgate Choir, Dan Steward*

Hymn #215 (red)

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

Good News for Kids

Offertory
(8:30)
(11)

“The First Noel” — Benjamin David Knoedler
“Away in a Manger” — arr. L. Smith

Hymn #216 (red, 8:30)
(11)

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”
“Breath of Heaven” — *Aldersgate Choir, Lia Havlena*

Hymn #230 (red)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Hymn #217 (red)

“Away in a Manger”

Hymn #220 (red, 8:30)
(11)

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
“Angels from the Realms of Glory” — *Aldersgate Choir*

Hymn #246 (red)

“Joy to the World”

Hymn #3059 (green, 8:30)
(11)

“Love Has Come”
“I Ponder — *Aldersgate Choir*

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: Blessed be everyone who is a seeker . . . of truth, of love, of the Word, the Way and the Light. Jesus came to bring us the message of love and peace; and he continues to challenge us to be seekers of this message in every hour of every day.

ALL: **Through big or small acts of kindness we will honor our God and in decisions we make we will seek God’s will.**

PASTOR: Jesus still speaks the same words to us as he did to his disciples, “Follow me. . . . Seek me.” “For those who seek will find, and those who knock, it will be opened to them.”

ALL: **We begin now to be a seeker. Christ will reveal himself to us, so that we, like the shepherds, may rejoice and hear the angels sing, “Glory to God in the highest and on the earth, peace to all!”**

PASTOR: Go, God’s beloved to be all that God intends you to be . . . the followers and seekers of His Son, who is our Lord and Savior forever and ever. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Postlude (8:30)
(11)

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” — arr. Mark Hayes
“Angels We Have Heard on High” — arr. G. Martin

Lyrics

2023 Lessons and Carols

Hymn #211 (red, 8:30, vs. 1, 2 & 6)

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

6. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; trans. st. 1, 6cd *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2 Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916; st. 6ab Laurence Hull Stookey, 1986
trans. sts. 1, 6cd © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund;
sts. 6ab; © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House;
MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. and harm. by Thomas Helmore, 1854

Hymn #215 (red)

“To a Maid Engaged to Joseph”

To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news,
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.

2. “For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!”

3. But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel’s word.
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel’s message, it troubled her to hear.

4. “Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high.”

5. “How shall this be?” said Mary, “I am not yet a wife.”
The angel answered quickly, “The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly, your child will be God’s child.”

6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.
“Behold, I am your hand-maid,” she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready according to your word.”

WORDS: Gracia Grindal, 1983
MUSIC: Rusty Edwards, 1983; © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.

Hymn #216 (red, 8:30)

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

2. Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God’s love aright,
she bore to us, a Savior, when half spent was the night.

3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
True man yet very God,
from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

WORDS: 15th cent. German; trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894; st. 3 from *The Hymnal*, 1940
MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1609

Hymn #230 (red, vs. 1)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

WORDS: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868
MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

Hymn #217 (red)

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

WORDS: Luke 2:7
MUSIC: James R. Murray, 1887

Hymn #220 (red, 8:30) “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

4. Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1816

MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

Hymn #246 (red) “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719

MUSIC: arr. from G. F. Handel, 1741 by Lowell Mason, 1848

Hymn #3059 (green, 8:30)

“Love Has Come”

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

3. He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth..
Before him on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

WORDS: James Montgomery, 1821

MUSIC: *Gesangbuch der H. W. k. Hofkapelle*, 1784, alt; adapt. and harm. by W.H. Monk, 1868

Announcements

Today, December 17 National Maple Syrup Day

- 8:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols — Worship Center and online
<https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org. You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) -- Room 2. For grades pre-K-12. Birthday Party
- 11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Potluck — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>
Meeting ID: 812 243 946
Password: 021075
One tap mobile +12532158782,,812243946#,,1#,021075# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>
- 2-5 p.m. Living Nativity — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock. Plan for 1.5 hours to interact with the animals in the barn and enjoy cocoa and the gift shop.



Monday, December 18 Charles Wesley's Birthday

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, December 19 Holly Day

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club Christmas Party — Room 4

Wednesday, December 20 Go Caroling Day

- 5:30 p.m. Veterans of Foreign Wars Potluck — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Living and Worship Planning Team — Room 4

Thursday, December 21 First Day of Winter

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81939800475?pwd=K1EwbjFqTTZ3OS9rNnBHSC9ubWZyQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 3980 0475

Passcode: 832006

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,81939800475#,,,*832006# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81939800475?pwd=K1EwbjFqTTZ3OS9rNnBHSC9ubWZyQT09>



Friday, December 22 National Cookie Exchange Day

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Saturday & Sunday, December 23, 24

- 1-4:30 p.m. Living Nativity drive-through tour — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock. Stay in your car and listen to a podcast while viewing the animals.

Next Sunday, December 24

- 9:30 a.m. 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service — Worship Center and online
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service — Worship Center and online

Spirit of Giving

If you wish to make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one for poinsettias, please return this form in the offering plate or to the Church Office by Thursday, December 21. The remainder of the money collected will go to Mosaic in Axtell at Bethpage Village (Zach Steward's home.)

Your name _____

Name(s) you wish to honor _____

Name(s) you wish to remember _____

Gifts for the Staff

At this time of year, we often express our appreciation through gifts. If you would like to participate in a monetary Christmas gift for our staff, you may give your contribution to Carol Clymer, Kathy Dombrowski or Harry Kellenbarger by Wednesday, December 22.



Sunday, December 31
8:30 a.m. — Worship Center and online
11:00 a.m. — Worship Center

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

- | | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 19 | Carol Roettmer Brewer | Michael Pearson |
| 21 | Chad & Jonna Pester | Marjorie Wyant |
| 22 | Jacob & Marjorie Wyant | |
| 23 | William Vlasnik (60) | |



Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley

Shirley Hanley

Laura Marshall

Keller Hustad

Dallas Huston

Lynda Nordyke

Zach Steward

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

Jacob

John

Kevin Johnson, Keith's brother, from San Angelo, TX has bone cancer and is undergoing radiation.

Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki's sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece

Allen Ostlund, Frankey & Gordon's son who has metastatic prostate cancer

AJ & Chandra Pfenning, Pat Marshall's granddaughter

Isaiah Pierce, Karen Pierce's grandson who was born 12/13/22 with heart issues has finally come home from the hospital

Sandy Quathammer who is in the memory unit of Pemberly Place

Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth's cousin, a 5-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease.

Freeman Sandquist and his family as he is deployed in Somalia.

Corrie Stohlman who's chemo for Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma is no longer helping as much so they are increasing treatments

"May the Lord go before Ross Teske and prepare the way for his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain."

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine