

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**December 3, 2023**  
First Sunday of Advent

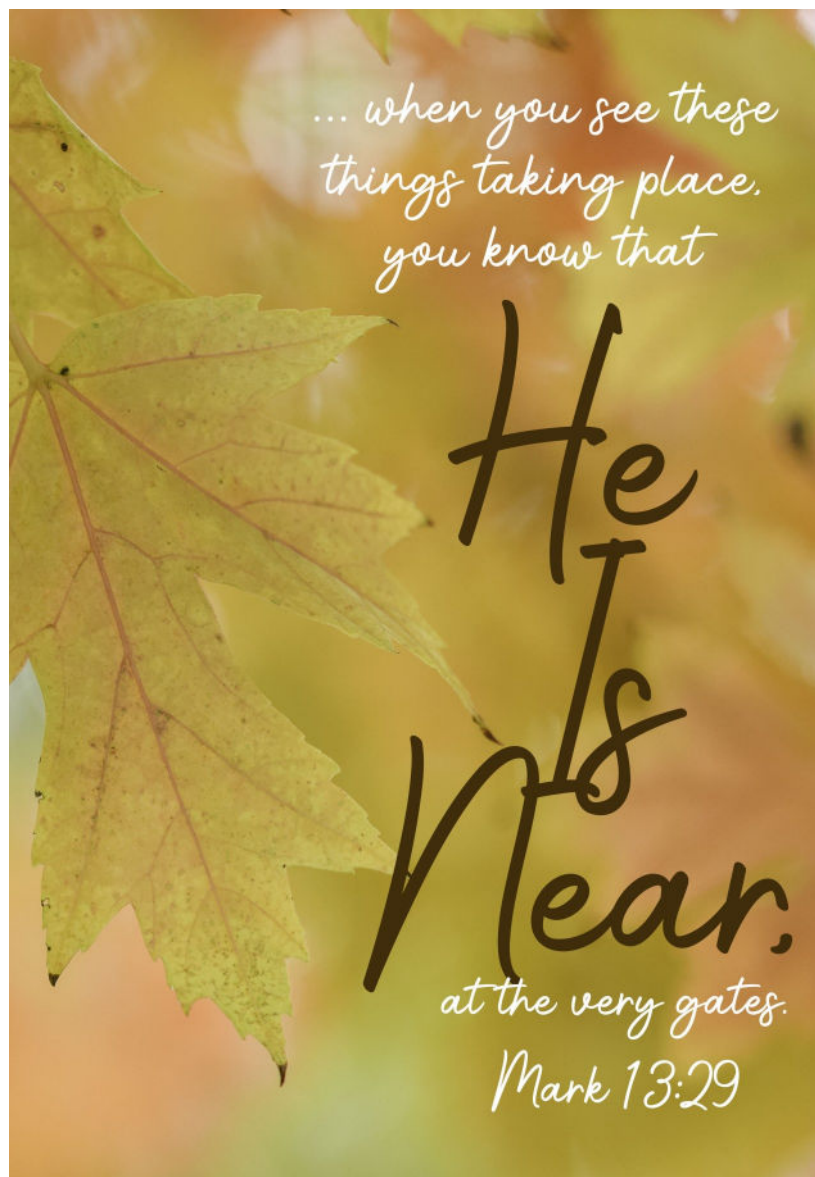
## **8:30 a.m.**

With Pastor John Goldrich serving  
Newman U.M. Church  
Song Leaders: Dan & Kara Steward  
Videographer: Nancy Taylor  
Greeter/Usher: Gaylene Nutzman

## **11:00 a.m. Service**

Greeter/Usher: Harry Kellenbarger  
Lector: Alane Wahlstrom

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



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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 3, 2023

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

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival or coming, is a chance for us to slow down and take time to prepare for Jesus' birth at Christmas. It is an opportunity for us to reflect quietly on what Jesus' coming to earth really means for us, in contrast with the headlong rush towards Christmas Day, parties, presents and turkey we experience in the world outside the church.

"Instead of plunging into Christmas early, advent holds back and emphasizes preparation and expectant waiting for the coming of Jesus into the world. Advent looks at the arrival of Jesus as a baby in Bethlehem 2000 years ago, his coming into the hearts of Christian people today; and his expected second coming at the end of time in judgment and glory." (Channel 4 website, faith page)

Traditionally, the color purple or blue, symbolizing penitence and preparation, is used by churches at Advent.

During the Music for Centering Prayer, you will be given a card with a prayer printed on it and a purple ribbon attached. We want to encourage you to wear the ribbon or stick it to your computer or somewhere that you will see it every day during the next four weeks.

Use the ribbon and the prayer card as a reminder to slow down to prepare for Christmas with expectant waiting, rather than speed up to get through the list of things you need to do. We will use the prayer this morning at the end of the Advent wreath candle lighting.

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

"The Father's Rose" — Mark Hayes

"Come, Messiah King" — arr. J. Rouse

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**Hymn #2090 (black, vs. 1)**

#### **"Light the Advent Candle"**

Light the Advent candle, one: Now the waiting has begun;  
we have started on our way, time to think of Christmas Day.  
Candle, candle, burning bright, shining in the cold winter night;  
candle, candle, burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light.

WORDS and MUSIC: Mary Lu Walker; © 1975 Mary Lu Walker

### **Prayer (in unison)**

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

LEADER: Awake, people of God, and stay alert for Christ's coming. Grace to you and peace from God who sent Jesus to us.

ALL: **Make your ways known to us, O God. Show us once more your awesome presence.**

LEADER: We are all God's people; no one is excluded.

ALL: **We come together as God's family for worship and prayer.**

LEADER: Praise the One who grants us the gift of life. Give thanks for God's continuing faithfulness.

ALL: **Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God is true for all times and places.**

### **Opening Prayer (8:30 *John, 11 Alane*)**

LEADER: Amid threatening clouds of anger, and selfish strife, come, O God, to bring light. Into our days of worry and anxiety, send a confident hope. Enrich us with spiritual gifts that transcend disappointments and spill out in generous compassion for all your suffering children.

ALL: **Meet us today where we are so we may be equipped for trials yet to come and for joys yet to be revealed. We ask in the name of Jesus whose coming we eagerly await. Amen.**

**Hymn #196 (red)**

**“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1744

MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830; harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer #895 (red)**

PASTOR: God our Creator, as we await Jesus' second coming, we give you thanks for the power of your love that heals and frees us. We are grateful for your church, filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ. Let all the people say:

ALL: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

PASTOR: We pray for ourselves: for the waking up to our calling to keep conscious, to hold before one another the vision of the world God intends. Let all the people say:

ALL: **God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for faithfulness in the tasks that are ours, remembering that Christ who comes is served as we serve others. Let all the people say:

ALL: **God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for conscious living of each day in your Spirit, knowing it could be the last on earth. Let all the people say:

ALL: **God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray, O God, for others: for renewed and renewing hope for those who despair of Christ's new age ever coming to be. Let all the people say:

ALL: **God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for the stirring of those who are unconscious and unconcerned with the needs and sorrows of their neighbors; for those paralyzed by fear of the future, or of what will be required of them in the new age of Christ, when it comes. Let all the people say:

ALL: **God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause) Let all the people say:

ALL: **God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Hear our prayers, O God, in the name of Jesus who taught his disciples to pray, 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.**

**Hymn #195 (8:30, red)**

**“Send Your Word”**

Send your Word, O Lord, like the rain, falling down upon the earth. Send your Word.  
We seek your endless grace, with souls that hunger and thirst, sorrow and agonize.  
We would all be lost in dark without your guiding light.

2. Send your Word, O Lord, like the wind, blowing down upon the earth. Send your Word.  
We seek your wondrous power, pureness that rejects all sins, though they persist and cling.  
Bring us to complete victory; set us all free indeed.

3. Send your Word, O Lord, like the dew, coming gently upon the hills. Send your Word.  
We seek your endless love. For life that suffers in strife with adversities and hurts,  
send your healing power of love; we long for your new world.

WORDS: Yasushige Imakoma, 1965; trans. by Nobuaki Hanaoka, 1983; © 1983 The United Methodist Publishing House

MUSIC: Shozo Koyama, 1965; © 1967 The Hymnal Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan

**Special Music** (11)

“I Hear the Prophet Callin’ ” — *Aldersgate Choir*

**God’s Word Proclaimed** (8:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Alane*) I Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

**Sermon** (8:30 *John*)  
(11 *Joseph*)

“The Grace of God that Has Been Given You in Christ Jesus”  
“Preparing for Something Big”

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. God, you are holy and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God now and forever.

ALL: **Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven gives life to the believer. Receive the bread, eat and live.

ALL: **We will turn to God daily for nourishment and give thanks with grateful hearts.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven gives life to the church. Share the bread; share the cup.

ALL: **We gather as a family of faith. We share our lives with each other.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven gives life to the world. Pass on the gift with joy to all near and far.

ALL: **We are thankful to God for the gift of life. With love we will share it with all.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven is holy and pure. Our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.

ALL: **I do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. I am not worthy that you should receive me, but give your word and I shall be healed, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.**

PASTOR: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

ALL: **Amen. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

PASTOR: Amen.

## Sharing the Bread and Cup

### Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts and Self

PASTOR: Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of Jesus, the food that lasts eternally. In return for your best, with gratitude we give our best to you. You have been our support in times of need. Every breath we take is a gift from you.

ALL: **We would be awake and watchful for opportunities to make a difference, to help others be alert for your presence, to value life in all its fullness and to learn to care. We dedicate these symbols of thankfulness and all the days of our lives to those purposes. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymns #211 (red, vs. 1-2)

### “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! Emmanuel 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! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

WORDS: 9th cent. Latin; st. 1, 3 trans. *The Hymnal*, 1940; st. 2, Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

MUSIC: 15th cent. French; arr. & harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

St. 1 © 1940, 1943, renewed 1981 The Church Pension Fund;

### Commissioning and Blessing

PASTOR: The time is coming when God will call us to account. Be alert and watchful, serving faithfully day by day.

ALL: **We will look around us for signs of God's presence and for the ways to be helpful.**

PASTOR: Grace to you and peace, from God and Jesus Christ. Know that God is faithful and Christ walks with you.

ALL: **With hearts full of gladness, we will do what is right. With great joy, our lives will show forth our faith.**

PASTOR: Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Postlude (8:30)

(11)

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” — arr. Zach Unke

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” — P. Nicolai

(Parts of today's liturgy have been taken from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler .)

## 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 Bethphage 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.

## Announcements

### Today, December 3

### First Sunday of Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online  
<https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://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. Christmas Story with Tom & Char Haggar
- 9:45 a.m. Psalm Study — Worship Center.
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up -- Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>  
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=clRSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room
- 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.



### Tuesday, December 5

### National Blue Jeans Day

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St. Seniors fellowship over lunch ordered off the menu.
- 6:30 p.m. Voices from the Field "Love, Justice, Service: Home Missioners in Ministry — zoom  
<https://na.eventscloud.com/770821>

### Wednesday, December 6

### Put on Your Own Shoes Day

- 10:30 a.m. Marketing Team — Room 4
- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center



### Thursday, December 7

### National Cotton Candy Day

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Psalm Study — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:00 p.m. Christmas Tea — Centenary Dining Room, 608 Elk St., Beatrice
- 5:00 p.m. Honey Do Club Christmas Party — Room 4

### Friday, December 8

### National Brownie Day

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

## Saturdays & Sundays, December 9, 16, 17

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.

**Saturday, December 9** National Llama Day  
11:00 a.m. Citizen's Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

**Next Sunday, December 10** Human Rights Day  
8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online  
9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) — Room 2. Music Sunday  
9:45 a.m. Psalm Study — Worship Center. Facilitated by Pastor Joe.  
10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room  
11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center  
1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom  
4 or 6 p.m. Abendmusik "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room" — First Plymouth or Abendmusik.org/  
livestream. Experience the Christmas story in heavenly carols. Let Abendmusik prepare your  
heart to receive the hope of the season. Freewill offering benefits ECHO Collective refugee  
support.

**Next Monday, December 11** International Mountain Day  
1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith Christmas Social — Room 4  
6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta chapter) — Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m. Trustees — Room 4

## Prayer List

### Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- |   |                        |             |                  |
|---|------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 5 | Seth Lienemann (35)    |             |                  |
| 6 | Molly Lienemann        |             |                  |
| 7 | Ava Aksamit            | Gail Devore | Hollister Huskey |
|   | Alane & Gary Wahlstrom |             |                  |
| 8 | Hazel Jambor           |             |                  |

Nadyne Bauer has scheduled cataract surgery

Dick Easley	Shirley Hanley	Laura Marshall
Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston	Jacob
Zach Steward	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 to Africa.

Andrew Smith left on his deployment 2/5/23

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

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

"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

