





December 31, 2023

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

**Music for Centering Prayer** Christmas Carol #1

**Hymn** Christmas Carol #2

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

PASTOR: God's Word; gift and troublemaker.

ALL: **Perhaps our adoration will keep you at a safe, heavenly distance?**

PASTOR: God's Word: flesh among us,

ALL: **causing us to reexamine and decide who we are and what we stand for.**

PASTOR: God's Word; grace upon grace,

ALL: **inexhaustible love beckoning us forward.**

PASTOR: We, your children, take our first, uncertain steps all over again,

ALL: **in joy, in awe, in praise.**

**Opening Prayer** (8:30 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

PASTOR: All blessing and honor be to you, Holy God, in whose love we are chosen and blessed. Let your Word become flesh once more as we embrace the light of Jesus Christ in our walk and in our talk.

ALL: **You, O God, introduce us to life in all its fullness, life lived in the light of your grace and truth. Strengthen this our belief and testimony, that enlightenment may be available to all your children and fulfillment of your will for us may be realized among all the earth's people. In the name of Jesus, your Word eternal, we ask. Amen.**

**Hymn** Christmas Carol #3

**Hymn** Christmas Carol #4

**Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We confess to you, God of our ancestors, that we have heard your word but ignored its witness. We have nodded agreement with your truth, but we follow our own ways. Your commands are frozen on paper, and your grace sometimes taken as cheap grace by us, for we do not warm to its possibilities for our lives.

ALL: **As the Word became flesh in Christ, we pray it may come alive in us. Melt our rigid perceptions and prejudices. Break down our resistance to change. Link us together in a community of faith, boldly receptive to your grace and truth. We want to be a communion of forgiven and forgiving sinners.**

PASTOR: To all who receive Christ, who believe in that name and trust in that love, God gives power to become children of God. When we are born of the Spirit, we receive grace upon grace. Light shines into our lives to drive away the darkness of sin. In the goodness of God know and believe that you are forgiven. Amen.

ALL: **Amen. Praise and thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** Christmas Carol #5

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

PASTOR: God of overwhelming love and grace, in this Christmas season we come before you in prayer. We remember how you chose to live among us, declaring that our world was a worthy place for you and we were the reason for Christ to come. And so, at this time, we pray for our world and

for all who live in it. May we live in the realization of who and whose we are. For this we say,

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

PASTOR: We pray for our international, national and local leaders, for fire fighters and law enforcement personnel, that they will turn to you for wisdom when making difficult choices. For this we say,

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

PASTOR: This day we think and pray for those whom this is a difficult time. For those who are missing loved ones who have died, or are far away. For those who are grieving the loss of a job, the loss of a relationship, or the loss of hope. For this we say,

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

PASTOR: We pray for those who are unable to be surrounded by others and who struggle with all the emphasis on family and togetherness in this season. We especially pray for the refugees. For this we say,

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

PASTOR: We think of and pray for all for whom the emphasis on “stuff” simply underscores not having enough. And we think of how grateful we are that you have sent Jesus into our world and into our lives. So, in thankfulness we say,

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

PASTOR: What other prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)

For these and all other prayers in our hearts, we say,

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

PASTOR: How might we reflect his message of thankfulness in our daily living? How might we share with others the true joy that Christ brings into our lives? How can we — like all creation — offer you the praise you deserve? Open our hearts, loving God. Stretch our understanding of our world that we might find new ways to journey with others in the days to come. We ask this 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

Christmas Carol #6

Hymn

Christmas Carol #7

Word of God Proclaimed (8:30 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Hymn

Christmas Carol #8

Special Music

“We Three Kings” — *Kara Steward*

Gospel Lesson (*Joseph*)

Luke 2:22-40

Hymn

Christmas Carol #9

Offertory (8:30 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

How will the nations hear God’s word if the church is unfaithful? Who will seek the lost if we do not care? Who will teach the young if we have no time for them? Who will uphold true values against the compromises that demean human life? What we return to God can make a difference.

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” — arr. Anthony Giamanco

Doxology (to the tune of #95 red)

“Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

**Prayer** (8:30 *John*, 11 *Joseph*)

PASTOR: Let us pray. Use our gifts holy God, to sound a word of hope in our world. You have asked us to care for those less privileged. Let our gifts reach beyond this place to care for lonely, frightened, hurting people. What we offer in these moments is a beginning.

ALL: **Extend them among the children and youth who need to know someone cares. Lift up among us those lasting values that enrich lives and make them whole. To these ends, we dedicate our offering and ourselves. We will ponder again your amazing grace in granting us life, in offering the child Jesus to bring us back to you, and in giving us the name “Christian.” Praise be to you, O God. Amen.**

**Hymn** Christmas Carol #10

**Hymn** Christmas Carol #11

**Commissioning and Blessing** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Go in peace, carrying God’s word to the world. Praise God and tell the good news of a Savior.

ALL: **Our eyes have seen an amazing gift. Our lives will witness to our salvation.**

PASTOR: God sends the Spirit to be our companion. Welcome the Spirit’s leading and guidance.

ALL: **We are heirs of amazing blessings. We are gifted to become a blessing to others.**

PASTOR: Amen. Go in the name of our Triune God as a blessed people to be a blessing to all you meet.  
Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

**Hymn** Christmas Carol #12

(Thank you to those who have participated in today’s worship. You are invited to stay and listen or leave as you wish.)

**Postlude** “Behold that Star” — arr. Mark Hayes

**Name the title of the Advent or Christmas carol, hymn or song from which the following lines come. Each title is used only once, and there is only one correct answer for each.**

1. Born a child and yet a King	
2. Mild He lays his glory by	
3. Ye who sang creation's story	
4. And wonders of His love	
5. O how lovely, O how pure	
6. And still their heavenly music floats	
7. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing	
8. On a cold winter's night that was so deep	
9. He come from the glorious kingdom	
10. Lie the ages impearled	
11. Where meek souls will receive Him still	
12. Sealed in the stone-cold tomb	
13. You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds	
14. Radiant beams from Thy holy face	
15. Such a Babe in such a place	
16. Haste, haste to bring Him laud	
17. That mourns in lonely exile here	
18. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow	
19. Love for plea and gift and sign	
20. I gave him hay to pillow his head	
21. Ox and ass before him bow	
22. Our God, heaven cannot hold him	
23. True man yet very God	
24. He came down to earth from heaven	
25. God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn	
26. And thus that manger poor became a throne	
27. God's stupendous sign	
28. The wrong shall fail, the right prevail	
29. This gift of God we'll cherish well	

The answers will be available next week on [aldersgatelinc.org](http://aldersgatelinc.org) or in the Fellowship Hall.

## Spirit of Giving

In memory of Dr. & Mrs. C.A. Medlar, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Burns, Mr. & Mrs. David Burns; Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Sally Perkins by Mary K. Burns and David Perkins

In memory of Bob Gloe by Marjory Gloe

In memory of Jerry's family by Jerry & Shirley Hanley

In honor of Crosley, Fulton and Sophie by Stacey Lienemann

In memory of Marcy B. Miller by Ron Lou Miller

In memory of our parents and brother by Larry & Pat Ruth

In memory of Linda Schafer, Ruth & Jacob Schafer and Theo & Guy Stocks by Steve Schafer



## Gifts to Aldersgate to Eliminate the Budget Deficit

In honor of all those who provide rides by Jerry & Shirley Hanley

## Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 1 Joe & Sandy Gores
- 2 Ethan Atkinson
- 3 Brian Stine
- 5 John Goldrich



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

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

# Announcements

## Today, December 31 New Year's Eve

- 8:30 a.m. Hymn Sing — 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
- 11:00 a.m. Hymn Sing — 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>
- 7:00 p.m. Abendmusik “New Year’s Eve Last Blast” — First Plymouth or [Abendmusik.org/livestream](http://Abendmusik.org/livestream). Celebrate with the entertaining and engaging Plymouth Brass and internationally-acclaimed guest organist Alcee Chriss. Freewill offering benefits People’s City Mission.



## Tuesday, January 2

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th St. Fellowship with Seniors.
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778191841?pwd=aVNobS9qU2FabmdrZlJScU8wSkVHQT09>  
Meeting ID: 817 7819 1841  
Passcode: 832006  
One tap mobile  
+16699009128,,81778191841#,,,\*832006# US (San Jose)  
Dial by your location  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778191841?pwd=aVNobS9qU2FabmdrZlJScU8wSkVHQT09>



## Wednesday, January 3

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *The Other Mother* by Rachel M. Harper — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

## Thursday, January 4

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 1:00 p.m. Faith Talks “The Power of Networking” — United Women in Faith webinar

## Friday, January 5

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

## Next Sunday, January 7

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service “Loaves & Fishes” Story — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

## Next Monday, January 8

- 1:30 p.m. U.W.Faith Executive meeting — Room 4
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta chapter) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Room 4

**Friday, January 12**

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, January 14**      **Human Relations Sunday**

9:45 a.m. “The Chosen” — Worship Center

**Tuesday, January 16**

6:30 p.m. Confirmation — Aldersgate office

7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Other Mother* — Room 4

**Wednesday, January 17**

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4. Tie quilts for mission.

**Thursday, January 18**      **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

**Saturday, January 20**

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

**Tuesday, January 23**

1:30 p.m. Caregiver Education Group — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry “Solar Options for LES Customers, LES Sustainable Energy Program (SEP) for 2024, Energy Saving Tips” with Jay Stoa and Jennifer Bangert from LES — Worship Center

**Tuesday, January 30**

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

**Tuesday, February 6**

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th

**Wednesday, February 7**

1:30 p.m. Book Club *The Seed Keeper: A Novel* by Diane Wilson — Room 4

**Saturday, February 10**

8:00 a.m. Nebraska Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 A St.  
Choose 2 topics: Economics of Exclusion, Mental Health, Education, Environment,  
School Safety, Housing. Cost: \$20 includes lunch. Please register at [www.nelegisbrief.org](http://www.nelegisbrief.org) by  
Saturday, February 3

**Monday, February 12**

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith “Installation of Officers, Pledge Service” — Room 4

**Tuesday, February 13**

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

**Wednesday, February 14**      **Valentine’s Day**

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service — Worship Center

**Saturday, February 17**

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

**Tuesday, February 20**

7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Seed Keeper: A Novel* by Diane Wilson — Room 4