

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

January 7, 2024
Baptism of the Lord

8:30 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dick Easley
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

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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*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



January 7, 2024

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

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30) “Mary, Did You Know?” — arr. Jack Schrader
(11) “Star Carols” — arr. C. Tornquist

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

LEADER: The powerful voice of God created all worlds. The same voice calls us to worship.
ALL: **We ascribe to God glory and strength. We come before God’s glorious majesty.**
LEADER: In the beginning was the Word and the Spirit moving over the face of the waters.
ALL: **We rejoice in your new creation, O God, by your Spirit coursing through baptism’s waters.**
LEADER: Come together to remember your baptism. Gather to celebrate the Spirit’s gifts.
ALL: **We gather as your beloved children to hear and follow your living Word spoken to us at our baptism.**

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

LEADER: God of love, even as Jesus waded into the water to follow your purposes and be fully identified with us, you draw us into the water and pour upon us your gifts of grace. Baptism’s waters signify your love and promise. Those waters also convey in symbol and power your spiritual gifts. Plunge us into these life-giving waters each day.
ALL: **Help us to turn from our sin, receive your forgiveness and use the gifts of the Spirit to sanctify our lives and to serve you with joy and fulfillment. Baptized in his name, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Hymn #723 (red) **“Shall We Gather at the River”**

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

PASTOR: Mindful of our duty as Christians to pray for our brothers and sisters and in the spirit of service to each other, let us pray for all God’s children anywhere.
God our parent, Jesus promised to always be with those who follow him, we pray for those who live alone and those who are lonely.
ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**
PASTOR: God of justice, Jesus spoke truth to power. We pray for those who suffer for speaking the truth, for your prophets of every generation. We pray for prisoners and for people and organizations that work for the release of those unjustly imprisoned.
ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**
PASTOR: God of compassion, Jesus spoke out for children. We pray for children everywhere, for those who silently cry out for nurture, for those who live in fear and for those who live in poverty. We pray for the children of this community of faith. May they grow in the security of knowing they are your children and part of the Body of Christ.
ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**
PASTOR: We pray for this community of faith, for those who hold positions of authority and responsibility. We pray that we might be so held in your love for each one of us that our relationships are free from envy, competitiveness and divisiveness. As the Body of Christ, may we embody your love, truth and grace.
ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**
PASTOR: What other prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)
Bring all your children into the spacious place of your love, O God, and hear our prayers that we offer in our love for you and for our brothers and sisters through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 #252 (red, 8:30)
Special Music (11)

“When Jesus Came to the Jordan
“I Ponder” — *Aldersgate Choir*

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

Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

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

“He Will Baptize You with the Holy Spirit”
“Back to Basics: The 3 R’s of Baptism”

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 God 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. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

Holy are you, God, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and salvation. In his baptism and in table fellowship, he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

PASTOR: Pour out your holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. 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. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: The bread of heaven transforms a sinner into a saint. Receive the bread, eat and be transformed.

ALL: **We receive this gift knowing that we are only sanctified by God’s grace.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven changes our church community. 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 strengthens us before sending us into the world. Pass on the gift with joy to all near and far.

ALL: **We are thankful to God for the privilege of being chosen and sent. With gratefulness we will serve and witness.**

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.

Beyond the Cradle

(based on "Beyond the Cradle" by Sharon Tedford)

We have been celebrating the joy of Christmas when Jesus took on the form of a man and came willingly to earth as a baby. We have been worshipping Him here today. Jesus loves us when we bow down and worship Him just as the shepherds and the kings did. Today, let us remember that baby Jesus grew up to be a man, lived a holy life, performed miracles and acts of love and then took our place by choosing to die on a cross. We remember that Jesus not only died but rose victorious from the grave and is living today. We can have the freedom to live in that resurrection life.

We are free to worship at the cradle, free to worship the living Jesus! As you receive Communion, make it your declaration to God that you are willing to give God the worship of your life. The cradle is filled with candy canes attached to cards telling the symbolism of the cane. When you come to receive the bread and juice, take a candy cane and card from the cradle. Ask God to shine through you in this new year as you focus on the God who came to earth, the God who reigns on high!

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(Please come forward if you wish to receive the body and blood of Christ.

Offertory plates are also up front if you wish to make an offering.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (8:30 John, 11 Joseph)

PASTOR: For your revelation, O God, and the chance to think and begin anew, for the invitation to revisit and amend, for the ways we have found refuge and challenge in your Word Incarnate, for the body and blood of Jesus in which we participated, for this congregation and the community of Christ around the world, for our bodies through which we know and celebrate life,

ALL: **we give you thanks and praise. O Creator God in whom we live, move and have our being, glory and honor be to you, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn #347 (red)

"Spirit Song"

Commissioning and Blessing (Joseph)

PASTOR: God gives strength and peace to those who will receive it.

ALL: **We need God's strength and peace as God's generous gifts.**

PASTOR: Listen to the majesty of God's voice calling you! Glorify God's name in your work and worship.

ALL: **We have been baptized in the name of Jesus. The triune God has blessed and empowered us.**

PASTOR: Then go out as a new creation in Christ. Let others see how God is changing you.

ALL: **We are unworthy servants of the Most High. Yet we are ready to do what God expects.**

PASTOR: Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

Postlude (8:30)
(11)

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” — arr. Mark Hayes
“Baptized in Water” — arr. D. Bish

(Parts of today's liturgy have been taken from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler and *The Minister's Annual Manual* by Logos Productions Inc.)

Announcements

Today, January 7 Baptism of the Lord

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — 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 “Loaves & Fishes” Story — Room 2
- 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/u/kcFkfw3laD>



Monday, January 8

- 1:30 p.m. U.W.Faith Executive meeting — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=85371519276>



Tuesday, January 9

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 6:30 p.m. Dementia Support Group — The Knolls
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee — Zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=82523530247>
• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 326 776 8816
Passcode: 4024891510



Wednesday, January 10

- 10:00 a.m. A.R.M.S. (Retired Ministers and Spouses) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, January 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day

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

Friday, January 12

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

Saturday, January 13

- 11:00 a.m. Citizen’s Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, January 14 Human Relations Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service “Loaves & Fishes” crafts — Room 2
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Worship Center
- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, January 15 **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

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 “Aldersgate Gardens” with Steve Schafer — Fellowship Hall

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. Fellowship with Seniors.

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

10 Jennifer Pearson

13 Julie Huston

Laura Rasmussen

Gary Wahlstrom (60)

Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley

Keller Hustad

Zach Steward

Jacob

Shirley Hanley

Dallas Huston

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

John

Laura Marshall

Lynda Nordyke



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

Family of Alan Ostlund, Frankey & Gordon’s son who died December 29, 2023

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