

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

December 15, 2024



8:30 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dave & Colleen Nielsen

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**
8320 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68506-6540
www.aldersgatelinc.org
402-489-1510 (church office)
aldersgatelinc@gmail.com

Joseph Rafique, Pastor
402-499-7101 (cell)
jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org

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



December 15, 2024

Lighting the Advent Wreath #2090 (black, vs. 3, 8:30, *John*) **“Light the Advent Candle”**
(11) **“Advent’s Holy Light”** — *Aldersgate Choir*

(The three candles are lit.)

LEADER: Today the candle representing Joy joins the candles of Hope and Peace. As we light this third candle, let the joy of the season fill our hearts. May we find joy in simple moments, and may that joy bring a sense of peace and wellbeing into our lives. When we think of the countless blessings that fill our lives

ALL: **our hearts are filled with joy.**

LEADER: For the warmth of relationships and the bonds we share with family and friends

ALL: **our hearts are filled with joy.**

LEADER: When we pause to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature

ALL: **our hearts are filled with joy.**

LEADER: For the giving and receiving of simple acts of kindness

ALL: **our hearts are filled with joy.**

LEADER: Gracious Creator, teach us to find joy not only in triumphs but also in the simple moments of everyday grace. Fill us with joy that surpasses circumstance, anchored in the unchanging truth of your love. Help us share this joy with others and may joy and laughter be a constant companion on our journey through life. Amen.

WORDS & MUSIC: Joel Raney

© 2024 Hope Publishing Company, www.hopepublishing.com

Greeting and Announcements (*John*)

Opening Truth (*John*)

LEADER: The best is:

ALL: **God is with us; God is near.**

Call to Worship (red *John*)

LEADER: God is indeed our salvation;

ALL: **we will trust and won’t be afraid.**

LEADER: Yes, the Lord, is our strength and our shield; he has become our salvation.

ALL: **We thank the Lord; we call on God’s name; we proclaim God’s deeds among the peoples; we declare that God’s name is exalted.**

LEADER: Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things; proclaim this throughout all the earth.

ALL: **Shout and sing for joy, because the holy one of Israel is great.**

Opening Prayer (*John*)

God, Light in the darkness, shine upon our hearts and lives, helping us see shadows and the many ways we perpetuate injustices. Allow us to see the tender buds of hope breaking forth in all people, especially those with whom we differ. Keep us watchful in our waiting that we do not miss your redeeming work. Keep us mindful that you are with us, reconciling the world through your mercy and power. Amen.

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

PASTOR: Are there any prayers you would like to lift up? (pause)
Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Let’s wrap these and those held in our hearts in the prayer Jesus 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.**

Offertory Invitation (8:30 *Joseph*)
(11)

“Still, Still, Still” — arr. Mark Hayes
“People, Look East!” — French Carol

Doxology (to the tune of #75, red)

“**Praise God**”

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.

MUSIC: attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (*Joseph*) based on Luke 3:7-18

God of grace and love, you have asked of us so little and given so much, and we have too often missed the imbalance of our relationship with you. You have given us life and breath and the resources to meet every need, and you have asked only that we be fruitful and faithful, compassionate and just. We give our gifts this morning as a sign of our striving toward that combination of fruitful and faithful, and we do so in repentance for the many times when we have fallen short in the little that you have required. Dedicate these gifts to help build the Kingdom that is your vision, not ours. Help us to celebrate this season as Christ would have us celebrate it: in love, kindness, joy, and gratitude. In your Son’s holy name, we pray. Amen.

© General Board of Discipleship

Lessons and Carols

Featuring the poetry of Ann Weems from *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Narrator: *Jeanette Fagerberg*

“**The Coming of God**”

Hymn #210 (red, vs. 1-3)

“**All Earth Is Waiting**”

“**In Search of our Kneeling Places**”

Hymn #230 (red, 8:30)
Anthem (11)

“**O Little Town of Bethlehem**”
“Goin’ to Bethlehem” — *Aldersgate Choir*

“**Mary, Nazareth Girl**”

Hymn #216 (red)

“**Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming**”

“**Had We Been There**”
“**Unexpected**”

Hymn #217 (red, 8:30, vs. 1-2)
Anthem (11)

“**Away in a Manger**”
“Go to the Manger” — *Aldersgate Choir*

“**Wouldn’t It Be Grand to Be an Angel?**”

Hymn #240 (red, 8:30)
Anthem (11)

“**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**”
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” — *Aldersgate Choir*

“**Sitting on the Hillsides**”

Hymn #234 (red, 8:30, vs. 1, 3-6)
Anthem (11)

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
“Follow the Star” — *Aldersgate Choir*

“The World Still Knows”

Hymn #246 (red)

“Joy to the World”

Sending Forth (*John*)

PASTOR: Christ will come!

ALL: **Joy to the world!**

PASTOR: Let the glories of His righteousness and the wonders of His love be with you as we wait.

ALL: **Hope to you, peace to you, joy to the world!**

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

Postlude (8:30)
(11)

“Birthday of a King” — arr. Mark Hayes
“Prepare the Way, O Zion” — Swedish Carol

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 Sunday, December 22. The remainder of the money collected will go to Mosaic in Axtell at Bethphage Village (Zach Steward's home.)



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 Kathy Dombrowski or Harry Kellenbarger by Sunday, December 22.

Your name _____

Name(s) you wish to honor _____

Name(s) you wish to remember _____

Announcements

Today, December 15

Lessons and Carols

- 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
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1.
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2.
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Ham potluck — Sunshine Room
- 1:00 p.m. One-act play rehearsal — Worship Center
- 2-5 p.m. Living Nativity Walk-thru the Barn — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St. Murdock

Monday, December 16

- 10:00 a.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, December 17

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The House Is on Fire* by Rachel Beanland — Room 4

Wednesday, December 18

Charles Wesley's Birthday

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- 3:00 p.m. Dementia Support Group — Stauffer's Cafe

Thursday, December 19

- 12:30 p.m. Worship Service and pizza party — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. One-act play rehearsal — Worship Center

Friday, December 20

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

Saturday, December 21; Sunday, December 22

2-5 p.m. Living Nativity Walk thru the Barn — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St. Murdock

Next Sunday, December 22

- 8:30 a.m. Worship including “Would You Believe. . . . A Stable?” — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1.
- 9:45 a.m. Children’s Sunday School — Room 2. Taught by Char Hagggar and Sheila Kellenbarger
- 11:00 a.m. Worship including “Would You Believe. . . . A Stable?” — Worship Center

Monday, December 23 – Tuesday, December 24

11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Living Nativity Drive-thru — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St. Murdock

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service — Worship Center and online

Sunday, December 29

8:30 & 11 a.m. Christmas Carol Sing — Worship Center and online

Tuesday, January 7

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th St.
- 7:00 p.m. Lasting Legacy Series — Worship Center and online. Andrew Loudon and Lorrie Benson, attorneys discussing how to gather the details of your life (including your digital footprint) so your family/estate executors can take care of your affairs.

Wednesday, January 8

1:30 p.m. Book Club *The Women* by Kristin Hannah — Room 4

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 15 Ethan Huston | Jonna Pester | Lillie Schrock |
| 19 Michael Pearson (30) | | |
| 21 Chad & Jonna Pester | Marjorie Wyant | |

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Dick Easley | Judy Faubel | Dennis Frederick |
| Shirley Hanley | Keller Hustad | Dallas Huston |
| David Huston | Laura Marshall | Lynda Nordyke |
| Zach Steward | Jacob | Arlene |
| Roxie & Richard Swyers | John | |

Nadyne Bauer is on hospice
 Skip, Katrena Anton’s friend with colon cancer
 Jody Anderson, Hayley Jambor’s mother who has a brain tumor
 Sister Judith Healy is the 82 yr. old cousin of Katrena Anton, rehabbing in Omaha after a fall.
 Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki’s sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments
 Ava Miles, Phyllis Nelson’s niece, was diagnosed with gastroparesis.
 Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson’s niece
 Tim Murphy, a veteran with memory issues
 Isaiah Pierce, Karen Pierce’s grandson who was born 12/13/22 with heart issues
 Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth’s cousin, a 7-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease.
 Ross Teske and his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain
 People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

