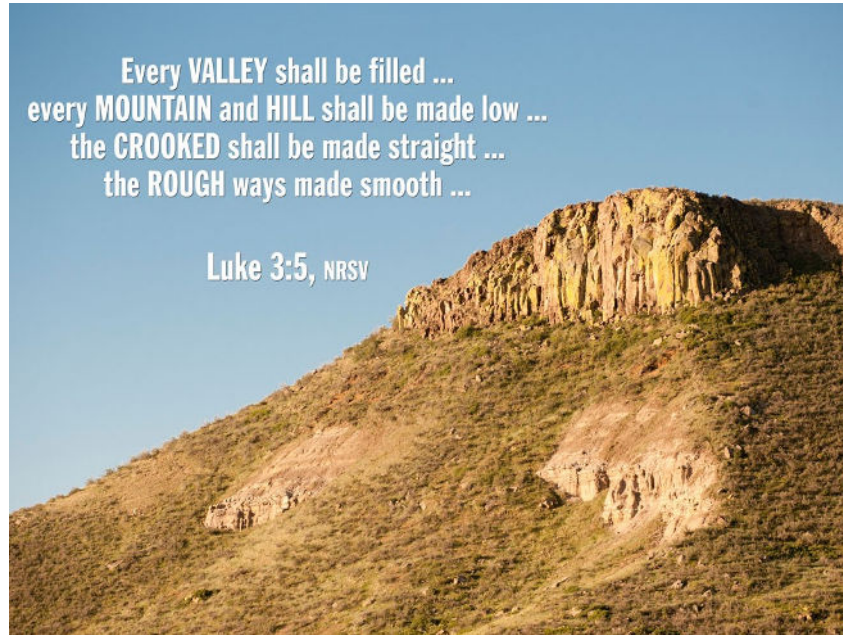


Aldersgate

United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

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

December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dan Smith
Lector: Jan Malone

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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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 8, 2024

Lighting the Advent Wreath #2090 (black, vs. 2, *Joseph*)

“Light the Advent Candle”

“Advent’s Holy Light” — *Aldersgate Choir*

(The two candles are lit.)

LEADER: We continue our Advent journey today with the lighting of the Hope candle and the second candle, the candle of Peace. Let the gentle glow of these candles symbolize the tranquility we seek in our hearts and homes, fostering a sense of peace that transcends the chaos of this world. In a world filled with conflict and confrontations

ALL: **we humbly seek the gift of peace.**

LEADER: For the storms that sometimes rage within us

ALL: **we humbly seek the gift of peace.**

LEADER: As we rush and hurry our way through busy lives

ALL: **we humbly seek the gift of peace.**

LEADER: And for those around us we know are carrying heavy burdens

ALL: **we humbly seek the gift of peace.**

LEADER: Gracious Creator, in the quiet moments may we find solace in your presence, and in the noisy chaos of life may your peace prevail. Calm the storms that rage within and around us. May we be instruments of your peace, fostering understanding, compassion and harmony in our hearts. Amen.

WORDS & MUSIC: Joel Raney

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Greeting and Announcements (*Joseph*)

Opening Truth (*Joseph*)

LEADER: The best is:

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

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

LEADER: Lord, we come to you loaded down with the busyness of the season,

ALL: **what then shall we do?**

LEADER: Lord, we come to you lonely, for relationships broken and loved ones long gone,

ALL: **what then shall we do?**

LEADER: Lord, we come to you confessing our own complicity in hurting others or failing to do what is right,

ALL: **what then shall we do?**

LEADER: Compassionate God, have mercy on us. Give us eyes to see the advent of your coming and hearts to hope in the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, the savior of the world.

ALL: **Bless us now, as we worship his holy name. Amen.**

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

LEADER: Waiting God, help us to be present to you as fully as you are present to us. Help us desire to be present as your living body in the time and place in which you have set us. Help us to be present to those sisters and brothers we have been taught to ignore, the ones society told us “deserve” their hunger or pain, oppression or hopelessness. Help us to be present to our own fear of failure, of poverty, of emptiness and to our belief that we “deserve” those fears.

ALL: **Help us, O God, to stop waiting for something temporal to save us and, instead, to accept the hope and joy that are simply waiting for us to receive them in and through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*John*) based on Malachi 3:1-4

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PASTOR: The prophet Malachi in the Old Testament spoke these words to the people of Israel: “ ‘I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,’ says the Lord Almighty.”

ALL: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PASTOR: “But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.”

ALL: **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

PASTOR: “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.”

ALL: **Amen. Christ, have mercy.**

PASTOR: I now invite you to spend some time in personal reflection and quiet confession in your hearts. Be aware of God’s goodness and love for you, and know that he wants the best for you. In the light of this, let’s confess our sins and repent of any wrong-doing. If you wish, and as a symbol of our purification through Christ, you may come up and wash your hands. As Malachi reminds us, the coming of the Lord will be like a launderer’s soap.

(There are two stations for your symbolic purification.)

Malachi continued by encouraging the people that God forgives and makes his people able to live right lives: “Then the Lord will have people who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.”

ALL: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

PASTOR: Let us bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need, to God’s loving care, saying: “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.” Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide, that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, sit together at one table, and serve you in one common ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed and vain ambition. Inspire them to strive for peace and justice, that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Hear the cries of the world’s hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most of the earth’s resources, the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, medical care and shelter, and so have the necessities of a life of dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home. Help us put an end to ravishing its land, air and waters, and give us respect for all your creatures, that living in harmony with every thing you have made, your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise to your glorious name. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship. Fill our hearts with your self-giving love, that our voices may speak your praise, and our lives may conform to the image of your Son. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments that we may faithfully minister in your name, and witness to your love and grace for all the world. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Sustain those among us who need your healing touch. Make the sick whole (especially. . . .) Give hope to the dying (especially. . . .) Comfort those who mourn (especially. . . .) Uphold all who suf-

fer in body or mind, not only those we know and love but also those known only to you, that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: O God, in your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about, for the sake of Jesus Christ 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.**

Special Music

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” — *Harriett Kalwicks*

God’s Word Proclaimed (8:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Jan*)

Malachi 3:1-4

Calling of John (8:30 *John*, 11 *Jan*)

Luke 3:1-6

© Bob Hartman/engageworship.org

JOSEPH: When Tiberius Caesar was in the fifteenth year of his reign

LEADER: *and ruled an empire from his throne in Rome.*

JOSEPH: When Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea

LEADER: *and ruled a province from his headquarters in Jerusalem.*

JOSEPH: When Herod was Tetrarch

LEADER: *and ruled over Galilee.*

JOSEPH: When his brother Philip was also Tetrarch

LEADER: *and ruled over Iturea and Trachonitis.*

JOSEPH: When Lysanias was Tetrarch, too

LEADER: *and ruled over Abilene.*

JOSEPH: When Annas and Caiaphas were high priests

LEADER: *and ruled over God’s people from the Temple.*

JOSEPH: In the time of all these mighty men

LEADER: *the word of God came*

JOSEPH: to John

LEADER: *Son of Zechariah*

JOSEPH: who ruled over nothing

LEADER: *in the wilderness.*

JOSEPH: John traveled up and down the Jordan river valley

LEADER: *preaching, as he went,*

JOSEPH: calling people to repent

LEADER: *to be baptized*

JOSEPH: to be washed clean of their sins.

LEADER: *All this was a fulfilment of*

JOSEPH: something the prophet Isaiah saw:

LEADER: *a voice, crying in the wilderness*

JOSEPH: “God is coming!

LEADER: *And you need to make a path for him*

JOSEPH: a direct path, with no obstructions.

LEADER: *So fill in the valleys till they’re level*

JOSEPH: and knock down the mountains, so they’re flat, too.

LEADER: *Turn the curves into straight ways*

JOSEPH: and fix every bump and pothole

LEADER: *so that everyone, everywhere can see the salvation He brings.”*

Luke 3:7-14 (*Joseph*)

Sermon (*John*)
(*Joseph*)

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”
“Three Ways of Preparing for the Messiah”

Offertory Invitation (*John*)

What is a fitting offering that is pleasing to God? When we sense the wonder of God’s majesty and realize the amazing extent of God’s concern for us, we can only respond with all that we have and all we are. What we place on the altar is a small measure of our gratitude.

“Invention #4” & “Spinning Song” — *Lulu Kalwicki*

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 Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts and Self (*John*)

PASTOR: Thank you, merciful God, for the gift of salvation granted to your favored ones and for the things of the earth that give us the means of life.

ALL: **Thank you for the plants, animals and birds that we use as food and medicine.**

PASTOR: Thank you for the natural world, in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.

ALL: **Thank you Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world. May we respect the life of all you have made. May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need, and may we use our strength to help those who need us. In the name of Jesus we ask. Amen.**

Hymn #206 (red)

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Sending Forth (*Joseph*)

© Dave Hopwood/engageworship.org

PASTOR: Prepare the way of the Lord: make his paths straight, bringing honor to his name.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: with courage and kindness, honesty and hope.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: with much strength or little, whatever you have.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: with a smile, a helping hand, and a listening ear.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: with words of vision and encouragement, challenge and direction.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: with acts of compassion, and generous hearts.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: for the young, the old and all in between.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: though the world seems against you and the road may be hard.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord:**

PASTOR: make his paths straight, bringing honor to his name.

ALL: **Prepare the way of the Lord.**

(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

“Prelude and Fugue No. 5 in D” — *Harriett Kalwicki*

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 8 Second 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. You may also search YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 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
- 2-4 p.m. Women's Christmas Happy Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 2-5 p.m. Living Nativity Walk-thru the Barn — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St. Murdock

Tuesday, December 10

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 1:30 p.m. Caregiver Education Group Holiday Celebration — Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Dementia Support Group — The Knolls

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00 a.m. A.R.M.S. (Retired Ministers and Spouses) — Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women's Connection — Sunshine Room
- 12:00 p.m. Nebraska Caregiver Respite Network Learning Series "Aging and Disability Resource Center" — Zoom
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, December 12

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

Friday, December 13

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

Saturday, December 14

- 9:30 a.m. Honey Do Extension Club — Room 4
- 3-5 p.m. The Pines Day School Christmas Program — Worship Center

Saturdays, December 14, 21; Sundays, December 15, 22

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

Next Sunday, December 15

- 8:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 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 Haggar and Sheila Kellenbarger
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols with the Aldersgate Choir — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Ham potluck — Sunshine Room

Next Monday, December 16

- 10:00 a.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Room 4
- 6:00 p.m. One Board Ad Hoc Team — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, December 17

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

Thursday, December 19

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Sunday, December 22

8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship including “Would You Believe. . . . A Stable?” — Worship Center and online

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| 8 | Hazel Jambor (10) | Joey Haldiman |
| 10 | Cherie Frederick | |
| 12 | Dexter Jambor | |

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 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 at Bryan East
 Skip, Katrena Anton’s friend with colon cancer
 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

