

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

January 12, 2025
Baptism of the Lord



The Holy Spirit descended
on him in bodily form,
like a dove.

Luke 3:22

8:30 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Karl Schwabauer
Lector: Carol Clymer

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 5, 2024

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

Music for Centering Prayer

“Berceuse Op. 40” — *La Dolce Vita*

Opening Truth (8:30 *John*, 11 *Carol*)

LEADER: *You are my beloved child,*

ALL: **with you, I am well pleased.**

Call to Worship

based on Isaiah 43:1-7

LEADER: *Do not fear, for I have rescued you. I have called you by name, you are mine.*

When you cross deep waters, I will be with you; and the rivers shall not overwhelm you.

ALL: **We move through deep waters toward you, O God.**

LEADER: *God’s voice is heard over the waters; the God of glory thunders, over the mighty waters.*

ALL: **We move through the storm and thunder toward you, O God.**

LEADER: *God sits beyond the flood, enthroned as ruler forever.*

ALL: **We move through overwhelming waters toward you, O God.**

LEADER: *When Jesus had been baptized, a voice came from heaven saying,
“You are my beloved Son, and I am pleased with you.”*

ALL: **We hear your voice calling and move toward you, O God. Come, let us worship God.**

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

LEADER: *Many voices speak to us. We are torn in many directions. To whom should we listen?*

PASTOR: To what should we pay attention? Which voices are the right ones?
How do we hear the voice of God in all the noise?

ALL: **Help us, God, to listen with our hearts. To open ourselves to your voice: that forgives us when we do wrong, that calls us to serve you and others, that invites us to use our own voices to challenge injustice in our world.**

LEADER: *Speak to us, God. We are listening.* (silence)

Hymn #604 (red)

“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God”

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

PASTOR: Let us offer our prayers to God, knowing that the love that flows from us will come to those for whom we pray. In scarcity and uncertainty, when jobs disappear and worry about the future bothers us, give strength to your people, O God.

ALL: **Bless all people with peace.**

PASTOR: In decline and despair, when social structures collapse and we wonder what will come next, give strength to your people, O God.

ALL: **Bless all people with peace.**

PASTOR: In conflict and violence, when dreams are destroyed and justice is ignored, give strength to your people, O God.

ALL: **Bless all people with peace.**

PASTOR: In dysfunction and fear, when we fail to share the resources of the earth with others, give strength to your people, O God.

ALL: **Bless all people with peace.**

PASTOR: In this season of cold and snow when many suffer from it especially those without a home or

those who do not have adequate health insurance, we seek your help, O God.

ALL: **Bless all people with peace.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (silence)
We seek your help, O God.

ALL: **Bless all people with peace.**

PASTOR: God, who gives the waters of life and love, strengthen us all in every way so that we may be filled to overflowing. In thankfulness, we continue to praise God with the prayer that 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.**

Special Music

“Le Cygne” — *La Dolce Vita*

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

Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

John’s Object Lesson (*Carol and Jim*)

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

“He Has the Stamp of Approval from Above”
“Jesus Got Baptized, So What?”

Sacrament of Holy Communion (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: The Lord is 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: Holy are you, and beloved to you is your Son, Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. In every age and through all the world, you have led your people from near and far places to your saving light. 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.”

ALL: **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: 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 grape 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 banquet. Through 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 Before Sharing the Bread and Cup (*John*)

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 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 to this table 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.**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

(Please bring your offering as you come forward for Communion. The offering plates are in the middle of the front row. The baskets to dispose of the communion cups are at the ends of the front row.)

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

PASTOR: Thank you, O God of wind and fire, for once again revealing yourself to us in the love fest of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Please accept the fruits of our labor as an offering of thanks. May our offerings honor you and our lives reflect your mercy.

ALL: **May our hands bestow on others the blessings we have received. May our prayers unite us with one another and with Christ, in whose name we celebrate the privilege of giving. Amen.**

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer (8:30 *Myrna*, 11 *Jim*)

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for you or laid aside for you.

Let me be exalted for you or brought low for you. Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine, and I am yours.

So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Hymn #347 (red)

"Spirit Song"

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We are God's beloved children. Let us seek to live in ways that are pleasing to God.

ALL: **God has created us for glory. We will worship the God of power and strength.**

PASTOR: Even now God's hand of blessing rests on us. The dove of peace descends upon us.

ALL: **We welcome the Spirit's presence among us. We celebrate the Spirit's work within us. Praise God.**

PASTOR: God has called each of us by name. Do not fear, for God goes with us wherever we may go. Even when we pass through rough waters, our Triune God: the Creator, the Redeemer and the Comforter, will be with us. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

(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

"Rondo from Notturmo no. 2 op. 38" — *La Dolce Vita*

Announcements

Today, January 12 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
- 9:30 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.
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* season 4 episode 3 "Moon to Blood" — Room 4
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:00 p.m. Steward Family Christmas — Sunshine Room

Monday, January 13

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith Executive meeting — Room 4

Tuesday, January 14

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees — Room 4

Wednesday, January 15

- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women's Connection — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, January 16

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81939800475?pwd=K1EwbjFqTTZ3OS9rNnBHSC9ubWZyQT09>
Meeting ID: 819 3980 0475
Passcode: 832006
One tap mobile
+12532158782,,81939800475#,,,,*832006# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb0zFweCd1>



Friday, January 17

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

Saturday, January 18

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Next Sunday, January 19 Human Relations Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — 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
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Next Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Office is closed

7:00 p.m. Church Leadership Council — Room 4

Tuesday, January 21

7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Women* by Kristin Hannah — Room 4

Tuesday, January 28

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group “Scams & Financial Exploitations” — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Series “2025 LES SEP Incentives” — Worship Center and online

Tuesday, February 4

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

7:00 p.m. Lasting Legacy Series — Worship Center and online. Jeannine Bryant from Changing Spaces will help us determine if we’re living in a space that’s right for us along with how to let go of “stuff”.

Wednesday, February 5

1:30 p.m. Book Club *Table for Two: collection of stories* by Amor Towles — Room 4

Saturday, February 8

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Nebraska Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 ‘A’ St. Choose two workshops from: Positive Immigration Laws for Thriving Nebraska Communities; A Housing Advocate’s Guide to the Nebraska Legislature; A Discussion on Sustaining DEI Impact in an Evolving Environment; The 2025 Tax and Budget Debate in the Nebraska Legislature; Building Common Ground with Elected Officials to Advance Issues; Breaking News, How Bills Are Passed. Register online at www.nelegisbrief.org.

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

13 Julie Huston

Gary Wahlstrom

Laura (Rasmussen) Rudolph

14 Roger Eschliman (80)

Dick Easley

Judy Faubel

Dennis Frederick

Keller Hustad

Dallas Huston

Laura Marshall

Lynda Nordyke

Roxie & Richard Swyers

Zach Steward

Jacob

Arlene

John

Skip, Katrena Anton’s friend with colon cancer

Jody Anderson, Hayley Jambor’s mother who has a brain tumor

The family of Nadyne Bauer

The family of Shirley Hanley

Sister Judith Healy is the 82 yr. old cousin of Katrena Anton, rehabbing in Omaha after a fall.

The family of Jim Howser, Phyllis Nelson’s brother

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

The family of Betty Nielsen

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.

The family of Mary Schuerman

Ross Teske and his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

