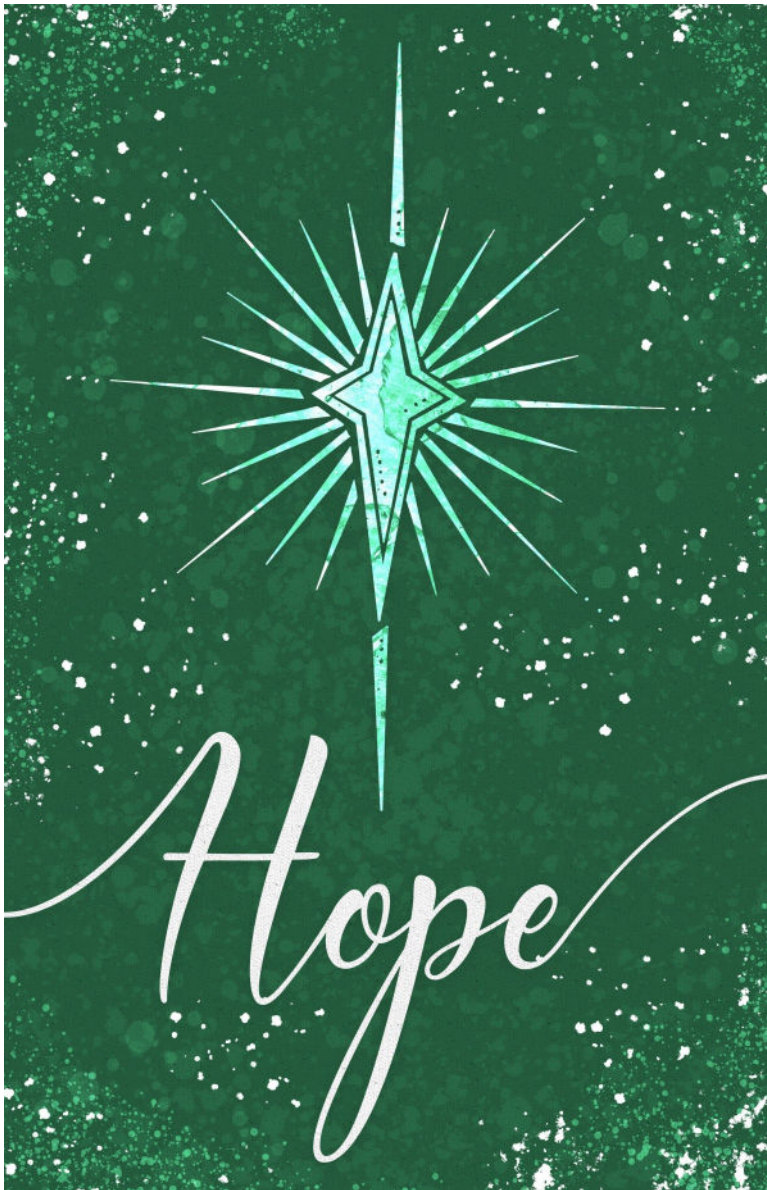


Aldersgate United Methodist Church



November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent — Hope

11:00 a.m.
Greeter/Usher: Stacey Lienemann
Lector: Rod Moore

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Matt Borland
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
Organist: Mary K. Burns
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley
Custodian: Scott Hoyt
Accounting Consultant: Jennifer Hunter

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

Matt Borland, Pastor
402-499-8839
mborland@GreatPlainsUMC.org

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



November 30, 2025

Welcome and Announcements (*Rod*)**Gathering** (*Rod*)

LEADER: Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love on earth.

We Gather at the Scene (*Rod*)

LEADER: In 1865, William Chatterton Dix penned a poem that would become the beloved Christmas-time favorite, “What Child Is This?” This year for Advent and Christmas, we will be prompted by this carol to ask deeper questions of Jesus’ identity, “what child IS this?”

When we look beyond the lullaby, what we discover is that the answers are much more complicated than the lilting lullaby tune conveys. The time of Jesus’ birth was fraught with difficulties. This is the scene into which Jesus was born. We are called, as his disciples, to enter the scene in the midst of our own complicated and difficult time in history, offering Hope as the Christ Child did.

Hymn #219 (red, verse 1)**“What Child Is This?”**

Advent candle lighters come to the nativity scene and light the first purple candle.

LEADER: The nature of humanity seems to point to the need for a “savior,” especially when we feel things are out of control. People in the time of Jesus’ birth were no different. They hoped for a new reality of communal wellbeing in the midst of corruption and violence. Peace only existed by definition of the empire. The collaboration of religious and state authorities for the sake of the rich and the demise of the poor was a hard reality for most.

We light this candle of Hope for those who need it most.

ALL: **For all who search for a place to belong.**

LEADER: For all who are frightened by imposing forces.

ALL: **For all whose future seems uncertain.**

LEADER: Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this: “For what do we hope in our time that will be ‘good news for ALL people?’ ”

ALL: **What child IS this? This, this, is Christ the King who reigns with hope forever.**

Hymn #219 (red, refrain)**“What Child Is This?”****Hymn #154** (red)**“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”****Opening Prayer**

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Here, at the nativity of your birth, give us the courage to face this moment with humility and hope. Open us to new understandings of the unfolding story of your presence among us. Show us the true meaning of the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. We pray in the name of the Child, the One who reigns in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

Special Music

“What Child Is This? Emmanuel!” — *Aldersgate Choir*

We Hear the Story (*Rod*)

LEADER: We begin today with a scripture from the Hebrew Bible, Lamentations 3:46-57. In the book, *The First Advent in Palestine*, author Kelley Nikondeha says this, “grief work is the seedbed for Advent home. We cannot grasp the fullness of the Advent narratives to come without attending to the brokenness of our world. Lament is how we name and honor what has been lost or taken from us by one empire or another.” This lament comes from the time of Babylonian exile.

Lamentations 3:46-57 (NIV)

The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response #219 (red, refrain only) **“What Child Is This?”**
Gospel Scripture (*Rod*)

LEADER: Our second reading is from Luke 2:1-5. It places us in the scene before the arrival of the Holy Family when the manger in Bethlehem was simply serving as a place for the animals' feed.
Luke 2:1-5

The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response #219 (red, refrain only) **“What Child Is This?”**

Sermon *Rev. Dr. Jonathan Redding*

Prayers of the Faithful (*Rod*)

LEADER: Lord, we have been through another week of news filled with reports of wars, bombings, gun violence, and politicians fighting. Where's the peace and love we talk about?

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

LEADER: Loving God, you want us to have something better and you have responded to our needs. It is Advent and we are starting to unwrap the story of your gift for us that gives us hope. Hope like a candle lit in the darkness to help us find direction so we don't trip and fall in the dark!

ALL: **Lord, we thank you!**

LEADER: May we be a people full of hope and praise. May we be the hope-filled disciples of the Christ whose birth we are preparing to celebrate. Help us to respond to the hopelessness of the world with the light, hope and joy you give to us through our Lord, Jesus your gift to us.

ALL: **Amen.**

Offertory Prayer & Offering (*Rod*) **“What Child Is This?”** — arr. Tom Gerou

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

Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer #895 (red)

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PASTOR: Now join us in the way that Jesus taught us to pray together by saying:

ALL: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Sending Forth

PASTOR: Just as our theme carol asks, “what child is this?” we, too, have come with our questions this day. We go into the world with answers of Good News, being the Body of Christ through our words and deeds.

As we prepare to go into the world, let us ask and answer the question we came with.

ALL: **What child IS this?**

PASTOR: This is the one born into a time when hope was hard.

ALL: **What child IS this?**

PASTOR: This is the one whose lowly status would send a message of hope that alleviation of oppression is a holy endeavor.

ALL: **What child IS this?**

PASTOR: This, this is the “King of Kings” who shows us the way of true hope for all people.

Hymn #224 (red)

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Blessing

PASTOR: May the Sovereign of All, the Child of Hope, the Spirit of Resistance to Injustice be with you now and as you go.

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

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” — arr. Cindy Berry

THE ALDERSGATE MISSION:

To transform lives and prepare disciples through the compassionate love of God.

THE ALDERSGATE VISION:

To welcome everyone to a faith journey in a vibrant world.



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

Your name _____

Name(s) you wish to honor _____

Name(s) you wish to remember _____

Announcements

Today, November 30 First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School with Harry Kellenbarger — Room 1
- 10:30 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 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
- 2-5 p.m. Living Nativity in the barn — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock
- 4:00 p.m. Community Sing "Handel's Messiah" — First Plymouth Church, 2000 D St. Offering: Hope House

Monday, December 1

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Waiting and Watching" with Becky Potter — Worship Center and Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 2 Giving Tuesday

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.
- 3:30-6:30 p.m. Cookies, Claus & Community — Sheridan Lutheran Church, 6955 Old Cheney Rd., Door 4. Visiting with Santa, decorating cookies, hot cocoa and assembling care kits for individuals experiencing homelessness to benefit Matt Talbot Kitchen & Outreach

Wednesday, December 3

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Our Missing Hearts* by Celeste Ng — Room 4. Social Action on the United Women in Faith Reading Program
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Choir Room

Thursday, December 4

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

Friday, December 5

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

Saturday, December 6

9:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Sunshine Room

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Holiday Happiness — Denton Community Center, 7115 Lancaster Ave. Crafts, cookie walk, lunch and rummage finds to raise funds for Royal Family Kids Summer Camp

2-5 p.m. Living Nativity in the barn — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock

Next Sunday, December 7

9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall

9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School with Harry Kellenbarger — Room 1

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online

2:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Fellowship Hall

2-5 p.m. Living Nativity in the barn — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock

Next Monday, December 8

3:00 p.m. Kiwanis — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom

Tuesday, December 9

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group Holiday Party

Friday, December 12

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

Tuesday, December 16

6:30 p.m. Taco 'bout Jesus — Super Taco, 5501 Holdrege

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps — Room 4. Youth book Nurturing for Community

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

1	Lynda Nordyke	Linda Pearson	Dan Smith (65)
	Nancy Taylor		
5	Seth Lienemann		
6	Molly Lienemann		

Dick Easley	Judy Faubel	Merrilee Faubel
Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston	Ruth Maier
Laura Marshall	Lynda Nordyke	Loyal Park
Zach Steward	Maggie Struble	

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

Elaine Fetsch, Kitty Anton's sister who started chemo on 5/12/25

Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki's sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments

Diane Mayer, Chuck Schuerman's daughter

Ava Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece, was diagnosed with gastroparesis.

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece

Tim Murphy, a veteran with memory issues

Richard Rockenbach in Las Vegas with 2 cerebral hematomas is slowly showing improvement

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

