

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

“SHE WRAPPED HIM IN
CLOTHS AND PLACED
HIM IN A MANGER,
BECAUSE THERE WAS
NO ROOM FOR THEM
IN THE INN.”



LUKE 2:7, NIV

December 24, 2025
Christmas Eve

7:00 PM
Greeter/Ushers: Kari & Tom Beckenhauer
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Matt Borland
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Organist: Mary K. Burns
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
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.*



December 24, 2025

Welcome and Announcements (*Stacey*)**Call to Worship** (*Stacey*)

LEADER: A Blessed Christmas to you in the Name of the Creator, Christ, and the Holy Spirit:

ALL: **Amen!**

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.****Gathering at the Scene** (*Stacey*)

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 have been prompted by this carol to ask deeper questions of Jesus’ identity, “what child IS this?” When we look beyond the lullaby and behind the scenes, 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, Peace, Joy and Love as the Christ Child did.

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

Advent Candle lighter comes forward.

LEADER: Tonight, we gather to remember with the prophet Isaiah: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

ALL: **We gather to once again bask in the glory that visited a stable and a manger, shepherds watching their flocks, and a young couple cradling the newborn Messiah.**

The three purple candles, pink candle and white Christ candle are all lit.

LEADER: We light the Christ candle as a sign of the glory that came among us in unexpected places and to unexpected people, that we may be people who seek and follow the glory of the Christ child here and now.

Hymn #219 (red, refrain)**“What Child Is This?”****Hymn #238** (red)**“Angels We Have Heard on High”****Opening Prayer**

PASTOR: We have waited for a long time for your hope, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God. Even now, in our gathering here, we await you. In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth, banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all the people back to you.

ALL: **Yet you did not come into this world in a show of power and glory. You did not shine forth for all of creation to behold. A tiny spark — a newborn baby, visible to parents and curious animals. A host of angels — away from the populated areas, singing to migrant workers. A sparkling star — guiding foreigners to see what neighbors could not.**

PASTOR: Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world. Open our eyes, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.

ALL: **God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we**

might banish the shadows of this world, we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle: Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore. Amen.

Special Music

“The Birthday of a King” — *Kathy Leeper Rasmussen and Julie Clopper-Smith*

Christmas Poem

“Make Room” by Christine Sine

Old Testament Lesson (*Stacey*)

Isaiah 9:2-7

LEADER: The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #240 (red, vs. 1-2)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Gospel Lesson (*Stacey*)

Luke 2:1-19

LEADER: The word of God for the people of God.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response #240 (red, vs. 3)

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Prayers of the Faithful

PASTOR: Jesus, Humble King, we remember that your family was away from home when you were born. Please be with the homeless, the refugees and those who are struggling to make ends meet this Christmas. Humble King we long for your Kingdom here, on earth as it is in heaven:

ALL: **let your Kingdom come, let your will be done.**

PASTOR: Jesus, King of Kings, we remember that powerful leaders visited you when you were born. Give your wisdom, boldness and grace to our world leaders, to politicians, business people and those with influence. King of Kings, establish your Kingdom here, on earth as it is in heaven:

ALL: **let you Kingdom come, let your will be done.**

PASTOR: God of endings and beginnings, you have been at work in my life, and there is new work yet ahead the you intend to do in me. As I reflect on the ending of one year, and ready myself for that which is new, I see the ways that you have been at work in my life, I name and thank you for the ways that you used this past year to: teach me, challenge me, care for me, bless me, strengthen me. As I move forward in faith to a new leg of my journey, I take with me all that you have done and are doing in my life. I pray that you would give me the eyes to see and the heart to receive the ways that you are daily at work for me and for my good.

ALL: **Amen.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion and Lord’s Prayer #895 (red)

PASTOR: This is Christ’s table. All are invited, especially children. Most people receive a piece of bread and dip it lightly in the chalice — which is an ancient way of receiving Communion. 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 our thanks to God.

ALL: **It is right to give God 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. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. In the fullness of time you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at his birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PASTOR: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so 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. As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, 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:

ALL: **"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

PASTOR: When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

ALL: **"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."**

PASTOR: 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 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 heavenly banquet.

ALL: **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.**

PASTOR: Now join us in the way that Jesus taught us to pray together by 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, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Receiving the Bread, Cup and a Candle

After receiving Communion, please take a candle.

After all have been served Communion, we will hold our candles high and sing.

Hymn #239 (red)

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Christmas Blessing

PASTOR: May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty: Creator, Christ and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR: Go in peace to love and serve God and all God's children in all that you do.

ALL: **Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.**

Hymn #246 (red)

"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

"What Child Is This?" — arr. Carolyn M. Taylor

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

In memory of Bill & Sally Perkins, David & Evelyn Burns, Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Burns and Dr. & Mrs. C.A. Medlar by Mary K. Burns

In memory of Julie Cummings Tallichet by Norma Cummings

In memory of Bill Sr. & Ida Dombrowski and Vern & Elaine Mehling by Bill & Kathy Dombrowski

In honor of Joe Gores and the Gores zoo and in memory of Larry & Nancy Walsh, Mark & Gladys Gores, Theresa & Al Grohsman and Baby June Mary Grohsman by Sandy Gores

In honor of Evie, Keller, Oakley and Wilder by Tom & Char Haggard

In honor of Crosley and Fulton Hanley by Stacey Lienemann

In memory of Vern, Connie, Alice and Marjorie Miller by Jim Miller

In memory of Marcy B. Miller by Ron L. Miller

In memory of Jim Howser and Leola Rhode by Bill & Phyllis Nelson

In memory of LeRoy & Jean Nielsen and Richard & Elva Janak by Colleen & Dave Nielsen

In memory of our parents and Alexandria Ronne by Larry & Pat Ruth

In memory of Linda Schafer, Ruth & Jacob Schafer and Theo & Guy Stocks and Ron Schafer by Steve Schafer

In honor of our children: Nate Smith, Jamie Opdyke, Harrison Smith and Andrew Smith by Dan Smith & Julie Clopper-Smith

In honor of Zach Steward and in memory of Phyllis Steward and Bob & Leona Moxham by Dan & Deanna Steward

In memory of Jeanne Wright by Alane & Gary Wahlstrom

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

24 Phyllis Nelson

27 Evie Hustad

Jody Anderson

Elaine Fetsch

Ruth Maier

Diane Mayer

Tim Murphy

Richard Rockenbach

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

Dick Easley

Keller Hustad

Laura Marshall

Ava Miles

Lynda Nordyke

Zach Steward

Judy Faubel

Dallas Huston

Iva Maxey

Jennifer Miles

Loyal Park

Maggie Struble



Announcements

Today, December 24

Christmas Eve

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service — Denton U.M. Church, 9335 W. 3rd St.

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day

11:00 a.m. Hartwig Family Christmas — Sunshine Room

Sunday, December 28

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

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

3:00 p.m. Christmas Party — Sunshine Room

Monday, December 29

7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team — Room 4

Tuesday, December 30

9:00 a.m. Artisans

Wednesday, December 31

New Year's Eve

3:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Last Blast — First Plymouth Church, 2000 D St. Offering for Fresh Start.

Tuesday, January 6

Epiphany

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

7:00 p.m. Money Matters: A Faithful Approach to Financial Planning "Property & Casualty Insurance" with Julie Clopper-Smith — Worship Center and online

Wednesday, January 7

1:30 p.m. Book Club *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps — Room 4. Youth book Nurturing for Community on the United Women in Faith Reading Program

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Friday, January 9

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

Thursday, January 15

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, January 17

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Tuesday, January 20

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

7:00 p.m. Book Club *There Are Rivers in the Sky* by Elif Shafak — Room 4.

Wednesday, January 21

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Tuesday, January 27

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group "Scams and Fraud" with the Lincoln Police — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Fellowship Hall