

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church



**11:00 a.m.**

Greeter/Ushers: Nelda Boswell  
Lector: Jim Miller

**December 28, 2025**

First Sunday after Christmas

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

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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.*



December 28, 2025

**Prelude****Welcome and Announcements** (*Jim*)**Call to Worship** (*Jim*)

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.****We Gather at the Scene** (*Jim*)

LEADER: We have been on a journey of discovery this Advent and Christmas. As our series comes to a close, we ask one more time, “What Child IS This?” One thing is sure, “this, this. . .” reverberates into our time, our lives, our world as we continue to work for the protection of every child, everywhere.

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

Advent candle lighters come to the nativity scene.

LEADER: The Magi see the reverberation of Light and are drawn to it. They, too, were looking for a new world order — one of true peace and compassion. The subsequent story of the flight of the Holy Family as refugees, running from threat of extinction by an insecure tyrant, is much too real in all of human history.

Even in the return home, the child of Mary and Joseph would know the heartache of oppression that would shape his ministry — a ministry of proclaiming that God continues to be with us, that we are called to be with one another, even and especially in the midst of hard times.

All five of the Advent candles are lit.

LEADER: We light these candles for those who need it most.

ALL: **For all who need more Hope.**

LEADER: For all who yearn for Peace.

ALL: **For all whose Joy lays dormant.**

LEADER: For all who need the salve of Love.

ALL: **For all who need this Child of Possibility.**

LEADER: Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this: “How do the messages of this child reverberate into our time, our lives, our world?”

ALL: **What child IS this? This, this, is Christ the King who reigns with hope, peace, joy and love forever.****Hymn #219** (red, refrain)**“What Child Is This?”****Hymn #245** (red)**“The First Noel”****Opening Prayer**

PASTOR: Let us pray with one heart.

ALL: **Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Book of Common Prayer

**Hymn #220****“Angels from the Realms of Glory”****Old Testament Scripture** (*Jim*)

Isaiah 60:1-6

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Response #238** (red, vs. 1, 3)

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**Gospel Lesson** (*Jim*)

Matthew 2:1-12

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Response #238** (red, vs. 4)

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

## **Sermon**

### **Prayers of the Faithful**

PASTOR: O God, we are on the brink of a new year. It opens before us with promise and opportunity. It is Your gift to us, help us to make it our gift to You.

ALL: **Hear our prayer O Lord.**

PASTOR: The year is like a blank page. Help us to keep from scribbling upon it with idle doodling. Give us good words to say and good deeds to do.

ALL: **Hear our prayer O Lord.**

PASTOR: This is a time to once again dedicate ourselves to be Your disciples.

ALL: **Amen!**

### **Offering & Offertory Prayer**

**“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”** — arr. Anthony Giamanco

### **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: **God of all good gifts, who gives freely to us, have mercy on us and grant us the peace that only the Prince of Peace can provide. Grant that our lives would be an offering, and that our work would be a good gift, just as the gifts that the magi brought, pleasing to you and fit for the King of all creation. We look to you, our Prophet, Priest and King, to rule the world with justice, and to give salvation to all who call upon you. Amen.** Thomas Turner

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.**

### **Hymn #251** (red)

**“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”**

### **Christmas Blessing and Sending Forth**

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 make you partakers of the Divine Nature: 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.**

(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**

**“Mary, Did You Know?”** — arr. Jack Shrader

# Announcements

## Today, 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](http://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.

## Next Sunday, January 4

- 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

## Tuesday, January 6 Epiphany

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- 7:00 p.m. Money Matters Series: A Faithful Approach to Financial Planning "Property and 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

## 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 p.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

## Tuesday, February 3

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- 7:00 p.m. Money Matters Series: A Faithful Approach to Financial Planning "Investing" with John Dannenbring, CFP — Worship Center and online



## 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

### Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

**28** Bill & Phyllis Nelson

**29** Grace Pearson

**30** Nancy Collicott

Dave Owen

Tim Stohlman

**1** Joe & Sandy Gores

**2** Ethan Atkinson (10)

**3** Brian Stine

Hayley Jambor

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

