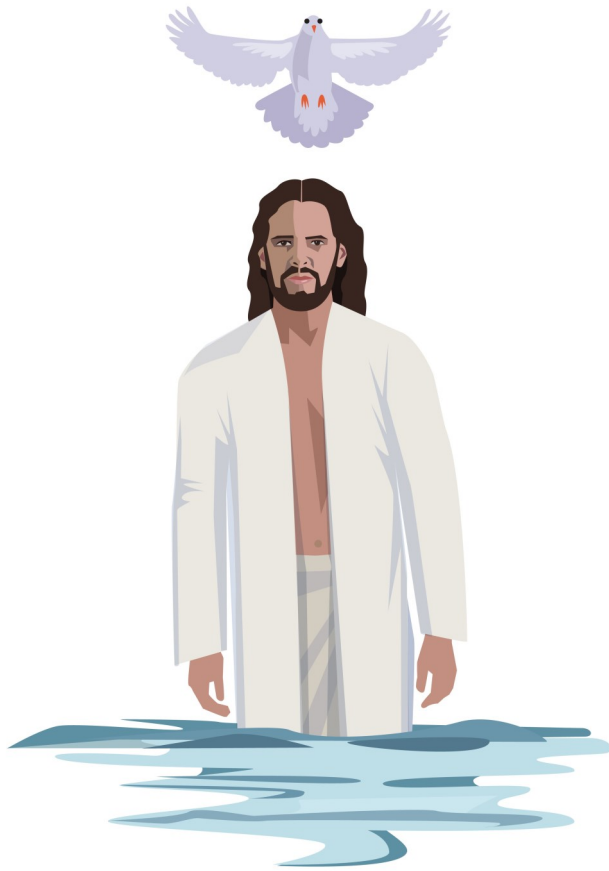


# Aldersgate United Methodist Church



## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members  
Pastor: Joseph Rafique  
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward  
Organist: Jan Malone  
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith  
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor  
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann  
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley  
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

**January 8, 2023**  
Baptism of the Lord

**9:00 a.m.**  
With Pastor John Goldrich serving  
Newman U.M. Church  
Videographer: Nancy Taylor  
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward  
Greeter: Dan Steward

**11:00 a.m. Service**  
Lector: Sheila Kellenbarger

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

**Joseph Rafique, Pastor**  
402-499-7101 (cell)  
402-483-7250 (home)  
[jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org](mailto: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.*



January 8, 2023

**Greeting and Announcements** (9:00 *John*, 11:00 *Sheila*)

**Music for Centering Prayer** (9) “Silent Night of the Father’s Love” — arr. Pepper Choplin  
(11) “Star Carols” — arr. J. Althouse  
(3 pitchers of water will be brought to the altar.)

**Call to Worship** (9 *John*, 11 *Sheila*) *Prayers to Share, Year A* by David Sparks  
(One of the pitchers is poured into the baptismal font.)

PASTOR: Let us journey to the Jordan River,

ALL: **crossing place of the people of Israel when they came into the promised land.**

PASTOR: Let us journey to the Jordan River,

ALL: **and stand with the crowds who confess their sins and are baptized by John.**

PASTOR: Let us journey to the Jordan River,

ALL: **and realize our responsibility as members of the “Community of the Baptized.”**

**Opening Prayer** (9 *John*, 11 *Sheila*)

PASTOR: When we hold the past tight to our fading memories, you come, Glory of creation: to strip us bare of all pride and pretense, with your future; to slip the latch on the fears and worries that keep us bound from following you; to stand with us when death and sin try to bully us. And we cry,

ALL: **“Glory!”**

PASTOR: When our faith flickers in the shadows of chaos, you come, Servant of all: to be the grace-giver; to teach us the songs of peace and hope; to open eyes heavy-lidded by indifference. And we cry,

ALL: **“Glory!”**

PASTOR: When we are unsure about being disciples, you come, Baptism’s Spirit: to journey with peace-walkers through the world’s violent streets; to strengthen us when we are bent by doubt; to anoint us with certainty, hope and reconciliation. And we cry,

ALL: **“Glory!”**

**Hymn #189** (red) **“Fairest Lord Jesus”**

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God and man the Son,  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2. Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.

4. Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

WORDS: *Münster Gesangbuch*, 1677; trans. Joseph August Seiss, 1873

MUSIC: *Schlesische Volkslieder*, 1842; arr. by Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

### Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: The psalmist tells us that the One whose voice can knock trees to the ground listens to our hesitant prayers that speak how we have hurt others, as well as God. Join me as we pray to the One who will bless us with peace and forgiveness.

You would have all people hear of your grace, servant God,

ALL: **but we hinder your efforts by hoarding the word for ourselves.**

PASTOR: You would have hope flow through our neighborhoods,

ALL: **but we thwart your plans by damming up hope in our hearts.**

PASTOR: You would have us skip into your realm,

ALL: **but we frustrate your future by clinging so tightly to those grudges we have carried for so long. Have mercy on us, Shaker of our wildernesses, and unlock the shuttered doors of our hearts. Remind us that at our baptism you touch us with the waters of life, promise to be with us always, and call us your beloved, as you called Jesus your beloved Son at the waters of the Jordan.** (silence)

PASTOR: You know the good news God has proclaimed to you: we are called to let go of the past and to walk, hand in hand with the Spirit into the reign of God.

ALL: **God forgives us, accepts us and sends us forth to do good and to testify about the One who baptizes us in the water and the Spirit. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

PASTOR: Your voice thunders in the night and sings love songs in the morning. Your voice tumbles raging rapids and ripples pools of peace. Your voice snaps trees in two and can mend broken hearts that sigh. We give glory to your name, God of all our lives.

You, O God, moved over the watery chaos. You hovered close and have remained close through all the sickness and loss, despair and loneliness that are our constant companions. Today, we remember especially . . . . (pause for names) For this we pray saying:

ALL: **We come to the waters of mercy.**

PASTOR: You, O God, parted the sea and delivered your people from bondage. You sustained your people and blessed us with freedom and new life. You sustain us and give us hope that love will always overcome. Today, we praise you for . . . . (pause for prayers of thanksgiving) For this we pray saying:

ALL: **We come to the waters of joy.**

PASTOR: What other prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)

We give you thank, O God, for always listening to our prayers. In your mercy, listen to our spoken and unspoken prayer. We give glory to your grace and to your love now and always as we say 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.**

### Hymn #252 (9:00 red)

#### "When Jesus Came to Jordan"

When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one.  
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins.

2. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,  
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.  
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,  
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace began.

3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;  
this very day invade us, and every bondage break..  
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green, 1973, © 1980 Hope Publishing Co.;

MUSIC: William Walker, 1835; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988, © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

**Special Music** (11:00)

“Wonderful Light” — *Aldersgate Choir*

**God’s Word Proclaimed** (9 *John*, 11 *Harry*)

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Matthew 3:13-17

**John Baptizes Jesus** (9 *Jim*, *Bill*, *Katie*, *Gaylene*; 11 *Jim*, *Harry*, *Katie*, *Cherie*)

**Sermon** (*Joseph*)

“Baptism of Jesus (Identity Statement)”

**Affirmation of Faith** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We affirm our faith through the act of handwashing, symbolizing that in our baptism we vowed to renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, rejected the evil powers of this world and to be ready always prepared to love and serve God and our neighbor.

You are invited to move to one of the tables outside the circle to have your hands washed.  
(hand washing)

**Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self** (*Joseph* at the baptismal font dipping his hands in the water)

PASTOR: By your grace, God of the waters, we can open our eyes to see those in need around us. By your abundance in our lives, what we offer can bring hope and healing to more people than we can ever imagine.

ALL: **We pray, O God, that our offerings delight you. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope and those who are bound discover freedom. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn #604** (red)

“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God”

Praise and thanksgiving be to God our maker,  
source of all blessing, prodigal creator.

Baptized and made your own, now we come before you, while we adore you.

2. Not our own holiness nor that we have striven.  
brings us the peace which you, O Christ, have given.  
Baptized and set apart, strengthen us, O Savior, with grace and favor.

3. Come, Holy Spirit, come in visitation;  
you are the truth, our hope, and our salvation.  
Baptize with joy and power, give, O Dove descending, life never ending.

4. Praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
one Lord, one faith, one source of every merit.  
Here now renew your church through this water given; grant peace from heaven.

WORDS: H. Francis Yardley, 1982

MUSIC: Paris Antiphoner, 1681, harm. by David Evans, 1927, alt.

Words © 1982 H. Francis Yardley; harm. by permission of Oxford University Press

**Commissioning and Blessing** (*John*)

*Prayers to Share, Year A* by David Sparks

PASTOR: Remember the common ties that hold you in baptism!

ALL: **We recall our common participation in the community of faith.**

PASTOR: Remember the needs that are brought home to you.

ALL: **We are challenged to use our common talents to meet those needs.**

PASTOR: Remember the wisdom of the saints who have gone before you.

ALL: **We will draw on their wisdom, and take courage from their endurance.**

PASTOR: Remember the Holy Spirit stands with you.

ALL: **In the power of the Spirit, there are no obstacles that cannot be overcome!**

PASTOR: Beloved of God, go with this belief blessed by God to bless all you meet. Amen.

ALL: **So be it. Amen.**

**Postlude** (9)

(11)

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” — arr. Jay Rouse

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” — arr. G. Martin

# Announcements

---

## Today, January 8

### Baptism of the Lord

9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org) or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.

10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School with Katie Softley — Room 2

10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1

10:00 a.m. Adult Discussion on Future Topics with Dwight Ganzel — Room 4

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 243 946

Password: 021075

One tap mobile +12532158782,,812243946#,,1#,021075# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFkfw3laD>



## Monday, January 9

### National Static Electricity Day

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09>

Meeting ID: 326 776 8816

Passcode: 4024891510

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



## Tuesday, January 10

### Save the Eagles Day

7:00 p.m. Finance Committee — Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09>

Meeting ID: 326 776 8816

Passcode: 4024891510

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



## Wednesday, January 11

### Human Trafficking Awareness Day

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

## Thursday, January 12

### National Pharmacist Day

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

## Friday, January 13

### National Rubber Ducky Day

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

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

## Saturday, January 14

### International Kite Day

11:00 a.m. Citizen's Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

**Next Sunday, January 15**    **Human Relations Day**

- 9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org) or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

**Next Monday, January 16**    **Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance**

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Zoom

**Tuesday, January 17**

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin — Room 4

**Wednesday, January 18**    **National Gourmet Coffee Day**

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

**Thursday, January 19**    **National Popcorn Day**

- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

**Saturday, January 21**    **National Hugging Day**

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

**Tuesday, January 24**    **National Peanut Butter Day**

- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Zoom

**Sunday, January 29**    **National Puzzle Day**

- 9 and 11 Hymn Sing

**Wednesday, February 1**    **Change Your Password Day**

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin — zoom

**Tuesday, February 7**    **Send a Card to a Friend Day**

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

**Friday, February 10**    **Umbrella Day**

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

**Saturday, February 11**    **National Inventor's Day**

- 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 'A' St. Cost of \$20 includes lunch. Register for your choice of 2 workshops by Feb. 4 at [www.nelegisbrief.org](http://www.nelegisbrief.org).
- 10:00 a.m. Bishop Wilson's Installation — Countryside U.M. Church, Topeka, KS

**Wednesday, February 15**    **National Gumdrop Day**

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

**Thursday, February 16**    **National Almond Day**

- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

**Saturday, February 18**

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

**Tuesday, February 21**    **National Sticky Bun Day**

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell — Room 4