

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

July 16 2023
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Other seeds fell
on good soil and
brought forth
grain*

Matthew 13:8, NRSV



9:00 a.m.

Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Greeter/Usher:

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

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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.*



July 16, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (*Joseph*)

Music for Centering Prayer “Spirit of the Living God” — arr. Marianne Kim

Call to Worship (*Joseph*)

LEADER: We bring our hopes and fears, our struggles and our lives as they are, into the presence of the One who leaves doors and futures open to gracious possibilities.

ALL: **God’s word lights the path before us.**

LEADER: May this time of worship empower us to make faithful choices.

ALL: **God’s word lights the path before us.**

LEADER: May this time of worship renew and restore our relationship with God and each other.

ALL: **God’s word lights the path before us.**

Opening Prayer (*Joseph*)

LEADER: Great Sower and Life Giver, open our hearts and minds as we come to worship you and to hear your Word eternal. May the seed of your Word find good soil in us. Let not your truth be choked out by competing rivalries or swept away by floods of indifference.

ALL: **We want to hear your Word, O God, and live it in such a way that those who seek and hope in you will not be embarrassed or misled by our life and witness. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #109 (red)

“Creating God, Your Fingers Trace”

Creating God, your fingers trace the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light and what lies hidden praise your might.

2. Sustaining God, your hands uphold earth’s mysteries known or yet untold;
let water’s fragile blend with air, enabling life, proclaim your care.

3. Redeeming God, your arms embrace all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove, make known on earth your healing love.

4. Indwelling God, your gospel claims one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace until we praise you face to face.

WORDS: Jeffery Rowthorn, 1974; © 1979 The Hymn Society of America

MUSIC: attr. To Elkanah Kelsay Dare, 1799

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*John*)

LEADER: We have gathered to find release from the cares of life which sap our energy and depress our spirits. We have come seeking deeper roots for our faith and the ability to survive and thrive amid life’s thorny pathways. We open all the hidden places of our lives to the light of God’s forgiving love, that we might be cleansed, healed and set free from sin. God knows our need for this time of confession.

ALL: **All knowing God, we know you understand us more deeply than we understand ourselves. You know how much the cares of this life weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often very shortsighted. We take so much for granted, failing to value the gift of your creation, the gift of family and friends, the amazing reality of your Spirit dwelling in us. We**

want to be like good soil, receiving the seed of your word with understanding that nourishes roots of trust and joy. Free us from all that keeps us from bearing fruit for you. Amen.

LEADER: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The Spirit of Life sets us free from our narrow concerns to celebrate the good within and around us. Life is transformed by our new attitude of gratitude. Rejoice in God's forgiveness.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

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

PASTOR: God of each, God of all: we pray for our families, those with whom we are drawn together by birth, by marriage or by adoption.

ALL: **May they receive care and love from you and from us as well.**

PASTOR: We pray for our friends and neighbors, those with whom we are drawn together by common places of work or learning, by common aspirations and values.

ALL: **Strengthen the ties between us. May we find in these relationships the freedom and companionship and community that nurture us and the world around us.**

PASTOR: We pray for our fellow citizens, those with whom we are drawn together by birthplace and nation, by regional ties and societal traditions.

ALL: **Fashion these bonds to ensure the relationships and ideals we claim are paid more than lip service, so that who we are and have been, never closes us to who we may yet become.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are part of this community and in the whole Christian Church, those with whom we are drawn together by a common faith and uncommon grace.

ALL: **May we thrive in ministry, may we expand in mission, may we deepen in spirituality and may we grow closer to one another and you.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are fashioned in your image, with whom we are drawn together in one family.

ALL: **Free us to recognize the stranger as no stranger, but sister and brother. To see the joy and need of any as the cause for our rejoicing and compassion.**

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

Let us wrap these and all our prayer requests in the prayer that Jesus our Lord 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

"Nearer My God to Thee" — *Susanna Aung and Chelsea Abels*

God's Word Proclaimed (Joseph)

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sermon (John)

"Are Your Roots in Good Soil"

Offertory (John)

PASTOR: God's Word has been sown among us. We are the soils, receiving seeds of truth. The harvest depends on our accepting the Word, letting it take roots and getting rid of the weeds. What we offer to God is a small return on God's investment in us. Let us give with joy.

"Hope" — John Turner

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (John)

LEADER: We give with gratitude for your love despite all our imperfections, O God. We will use these offerings to seek more union through our division and greater love through all that separates us. Bring to being in us genuine expressions of your love and grace in our world.

ALL: **May the ministry in which all of us have a share bear much fruit, bringing in an abundance for your realm. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.**

Hymn #671 (red)

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

2. Thanks we give and adoration for thy gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound;
ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

WORDS: attr. to John Fawcett, 1773

MUSIC: *The European Magazine and Review*, 1792; harm. from *The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book*, 1889, alt.

Commissioning and Blessing (Joseph)

PASTOR: Carry the lamp of God’s Word into the week ahead. Share its light with all you meet.

ALL: **God’s Word lights our path and guides our feet. The heritage we have received is ours to pass on.**

PASTOR: Go from this place finding the strength to right any wrongs, to be the peace brought to division, to be the love needed within the world. Go in peace. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Postlude

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” — Sy Miller and Jill Jackson

Announcements

Today, July 16

National Fresh Spinach Day

- 9:00 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
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>
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/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>



Monday, July 17

National Tattoo Day

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, July 18

World Listening Day

- 2:00 p.m. Honey Do Extension Club — Room 4
7:00 p.m. Book Club *Punching the Air* by Ibi Boboi & Yusef Salaam — Room 4

Wednesday, July 19

National Hot Dog Day

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4. Tying quilts for missions.
5:30 p.m. VFW Potluck — Room 4



Thursday, July 20

National Lollipop Day

- 12:30 p.m. Prayer and Worship Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom. Share prayer concerns.

Friday, July 21

National Tug-of-War Tournament Day

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

Saturday, July 22

Hammock Day

- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, July 23

Gorgeous Grandma Day

- 9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Tuesday, July 25

National Hire a Veteran Day

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregivers Education Group “Exploring Senior Centers” — Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — zoom

Sunday, July 30

Paperback Book Day

- 9 & 11 a.m. Hymn Sing — Worship Center
12:15 p.m. Potluck — Sunshine Room

Tuesday, August 1

Play Ball Day

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th St. Seniors fellowship over lunch.

- Wednesday, August 2** **National Coloring Book Day**
 1:30 p.m. Book Club “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt — zoom
- Friday, August 11** **Play in the Sand Day**
 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship of playing cards (10-point Pitch)
- Sunday, August 13** **U.M. Student Day**
 10:15 a.m. One Shot Choir Practice — Choir Room
- Tuesday, August 15** **National Relaxation Day**
 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt — Room 4
- Wednesday, August 16** **National Bratwurst Day**
 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- Thursday, August 17** **National Thrift Shop Day**
 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom
- Saturday, August 19** **National Sandcastle and Sculpture**
 8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 17 John & Rita Mulcahy
- 21 Nathan Emerson
- 22 Wendy Collicott-Witthoff

Nadyne Bauer
 Dick Easley
 Bob Gloe
 Keller Hustad
 Dallas Huston
 Family of Douglas Maier, Ruth Maier's son who died 7/6/23.
 Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki's sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments
 Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson’s niece
 Lynda Nordyke
 Allen Ostlund, Frankey & Gordon’s son who has metastatic prostate cancer
 AJ & Chandra Pfenning, Pat Marshall's granddaughter
 Isaiah Pierce, Karen Pierce’s grandson who was born 12/13/22 with heart issues
 Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth’s cousin, a 5-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease
 Freeman Sandquist and his family as he is deployed to Africa.
 Andrew Smith left on his deployment 2/5/23
 Zach Steward
 Corrie Stohlman taking chemo for Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma
 Roxanne & Richard Swyers
 “May the Lord go before Ross Teske and prepare the way for his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain.”
 Jacob
 John
 People in Ukraine, Turkey and Syria