

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

For in this
HOPE
we were
SAVED.

Romans 8:24



9:00 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Greeter/Usher: Tom Haggar

11:00 a.m. Service

Lector: Rod Moore
Greeter/Usher: Dan Smith

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

July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

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Lincoln, NE 68506-6540
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Joseph Rafique, Pastor

402-499-7101 (cell)
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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 23, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (9 *John*, 11 *Rod*)

Music for Centering Prayer (9) "God Leads Us Along" — arr. Lisa Hoekstra
(11) "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder" — spiritual

Call to Worship (9 *John*, 11 *Rod*)

LEADER: Here in this space, heaven and Earth touch.
ALL: **Here in this place, the gateway to grace is wide open.**
LEADER: Here the people of God come to worship.
ALL: **And God enfolds us close in a welcoming embrace.**
LEADER: "I am with you," God declares.
ALL: **We repeat God's welcome in this community of grace, "I am with you."**
LEADER: Let us worship God.

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

LEADER: Help us to listen to the groans in our midst, O God: creation's groans of labor pains, our neighbor's groans of loneliness, the groans that we bring, with fear and awe. We come bringing the yearnings that are on our hearts this day.
ALL: **Draw us into your waiting presence where we can learn how to wait as you wait: eagerly, hopefully, joyfully, for our holiness to grow and our chaff to be burned away in the brilliant fire of the Spirit. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

Hymns #127 (red)

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

WORDS: William Williams, 1745; trans. from the Welsh by Peter Williams and the author, 1771

MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

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

PASTOR: When we run away from our problems, we discover that we cannot run away from ourselves. Yet God is present with us to hear our confession and offer forgiveness. God brings us back to face what we have left behind in order that we may claim the promise of reconciliation and wholeness.
ALL: **God, we often confuse your time for our time, your world for our world. We lose sight of what is truly important and think we have all the answers. When we feel strong and confi-**

dent, we forget you and your dreams for us, this church, and the world. Help us to see that we are wound up in a tangled web of community, with you always at the center. Amen.

PASTOR: Our God is patient and understanding. We are waiting and groaning, but God is at work already revealing hope that we cannot quite see. Still, this hope saves us. Our God redeems us and re-
vives our spirits again. This is the mystery and the glory.

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

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (*Joseph*) Genesis 28:18

PASTOR: Oil has long traditions of use for healing. We pour this oil on this stone to remind us that this, too, is the house of God. As we bring our prayers for healing, know that God is here.

For all who struggle with grief or fear, anger or pain, hear our prayers. (silent or spoken prayers)

For all who face a crossroads, a time of choosing, hear our prayers. (silent or spoken prayers)

For all who find it hard to come into the presence of God or who have found the church non-receptive and ungracious, hear our prayers. (silent or spoken prayers)

For all on journeys home, for all setting out on new ways, for all who feel trapped and unable to move, hear our prayers. (silent or spoken prayers)

May the spirit be poured on us all.

Let us wrap these silent and spoken prayers in 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.**

Hymns #546 (red, vs. 3-4 read) **"The Church's One Foundation"**

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be
his living servant people, by his own death set free.

2. Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.

One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

3. Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore:
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5. We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.

Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Word of God Proclaimed (9 *John*, 11 *Rod*) Genesis 28:10-19a
Romans 8:12-25

(Intro to the Epistle) When Paul wrote the letter to the Romans, dated between 55 and 57 CE, Jews and Christians in Rome were likely still at odds. Those conflicts, and persecutions looming on the horizon, brought into focus a question just as lively now as then: can God be trusted? In the theological terms in the letter to the Romans, this is a matter of God's righteousness. Will promises be kept? Will God's purposes, often unseen and sometimes apparently thwarted, be revealed? Those are the key issues addressed by Romans 5-8. The calling to serve God, another prominent theme in Romans, derives directly from that certainty of God's love.

"When in Rome, do as the Romans do" is not supported in the witness Paul invokes. Enemies are not to be persecuted but blessed; evil is not to be repaid with evil but good (Romans 12:9-21). Imperial Rome and Caesar's lordship held sway in its time by the power to inflict death. But in defiant hope, Paul insists the church may trust in the sovereignty of Christ, for whom death no longer has dominion (Rom. 6:1-11).

In this context, let us hear the following contemporary interpretation of Romans 8:12-25.

So, sisters and brothers, young people and elders, God asks us to live a big life, a God-image life, not a life that is teeny-tiny small, a life no bigger than what the world can imagine, a life that settles for what the world calls success! When we live that God-image life, we become living pictures of the God who is our parent. The God-image life isn't defined by whether we are powerful or not, whether we are at the top or bottom of the heap. We don't have to worry about being noticed because God shouts our names with joy; God claims as brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, all those folks who are willing to live as Jesus lived.

What is going on around us: some people are being praised by the crowds and other people are being ignored, some people living with all they want and other people not having half of what they need, some people are being hurt, and other people doing the hurting – these things make the whole universe weep and wail and moan and groan. The heavens and Earth are waiting, holding their breath, hoping and yearning for people who want to live the God-image life to set them free from all the damage done to them! The heavens and Earth are hoping, and we are hoping right along with them for this promise of God that everything will come right. We are waiting and hoping – sometimes patiently and sometimes not – for our own selves to have the courage and the faith to live that big, God-image life and have God shout our name with joy.

John Indermark is a writer and retired United Church of Christ pastor.
He has authored several books and been a contributing writer to *Seasons of the Spirit*.

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

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon (*Joseph*)

"Family Matters (We Are Family)"

Affirmation of Faith (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We believe in God, always and everywhere, present and active from before time's beginning and long past our conceptions of time's ending.

We believe in God, always and everywhere, who is beyond our imaginings.

We believe in God, always and everywhere, with women and men framing stories to explain our connectedness with the Mystery.

We believe in God, always and everywhere, in Jesus of Nazareth, revealing holy relationship and urging practiced love.

ALL: **We believe in God, always and everywhere, in our times and lives, prompting gracious welcome and responsible participation in God's unfolding reign.**

We believe in God, always and everywhere.

Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We are debtors to God; who has given us the precious gift of life. We were created of good seed in God's own image that we might bear fruit for God's realm. Through our offerings of self and our gifts we give support to our common mission.

(9) "Open My Eyes, That I May See" — arr. Larry Shackley

(11) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" — J. Zundel

PASTOR: Thank you, God, for the rich heritage of faith we have received from our ancestors.

ALL: **We are grateful that your Spirit is ever with us; assuring us of your acceptance and love.**

PASTOR: With all that we have and all we are, we reach out to you, our God of generosity. We ask that you receive us and whatever we have to offer in your name.

ALL: **May we be used by you, God, to offer extraordinary blessings in our community and world. May our giving of self and our gifts remind us that through you, all is possible!**

PASTOR: In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Hymn #553 (red)

"And Are We Yet Alive"

And are we yet alive, and see each other's face?
Glory and thanks to Jesus give for his almighty grace!

2. Preserved by power divine to full salvation here,
again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear.

3. What troubles have we seen, what mighty conflicts past,
fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!

4. Yet out of all the Lord hath brought us by his love;
and still he doth his help afford, and hides our life above.

5. Then let us make our boast of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more.

6. Let us take up the cross till we the crown obtain,
and gladly reckon all things loss so we may Jesus gain.

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1749

MUSIC: Johann G. Nägeli; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: Scatter to serve, listening for God's direction.

ALL: **The Spirit of God will lead us day by day. We can say, "Surely, God is in this place."**

PASTOR: Let us live, then, according to the Spirit and show forth the first-fruits of the Spirit.

ALL: **With eager longing, we seek to live in the Spirit. We look up with hope and patience and joy.**

PASTOR: As you go from this place, may God's love hold you; God's light guide you, and God's liberation free you. Go out into the world with blessing in your life, and the blessing for the lives of others. May every rock and stone be a place of wonder and hope. Amen.

ALL: **Amen. Amen.**

Postlude (9)

(11)

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" — arr. Mark Hayes

"Wedding Day at Troldhaugen" — E. Grieg

Announcements

Today, Sunday, July 23 **Gorgeous Grandma 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=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/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>



Monday, July 24 **National Drive-Thru Day**

- 10:00 a.m. Outreach Focus Team — Room 4

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
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778191841?pwd=aVNobS9qU2FabmdrZlJScU8wSkVHQT09>
Meeting ID: 817 7819 1841
Passcode: 832006
One tap mobile
+16699009128,,81778191841#,,, *832006# US (San Jose)
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81778191841?pwd=aVNobS9qU2FabmdrZlJScU8wSkVHQT09>



Thursday, July 27 **National Crème Brûlée Day**

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

Friday, July 28 **National Waterpark Day**

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

Saturday, July 29 **National Lipstick Day**

- 6:00 p.m. Dance Recital — Worship Center

Next Sunday, July 30 **Paperback Book Day**

- 9:00 a.m. Hymn Sing — Worship Center and online
- 11:00 a.m. Hymn Sing — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Potluck — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, July 31 **National Mixed Breed Dog Day**

- 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Living and Worship Planning Team — Room 4

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

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

23 Kaylene Martin (85)
24 Cliff & Marcie Stohlman
25 John Mulcahy
27 David Willnerd
28 Lois & Roger Witt (60)
Doug & Reba Wysocki

Nadyne Bauer

Dick Easley

Bob Gloe

Keller Hustad

Dallas Huston

Kevin Johnson, Keith’s brother, from San Angelo, TX has bone cancer and is undergoing radiation.

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

Blake Stupic, Dean Lienemann’s grandson, is recovering from cancer surgery and awaiting a treatment decision

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