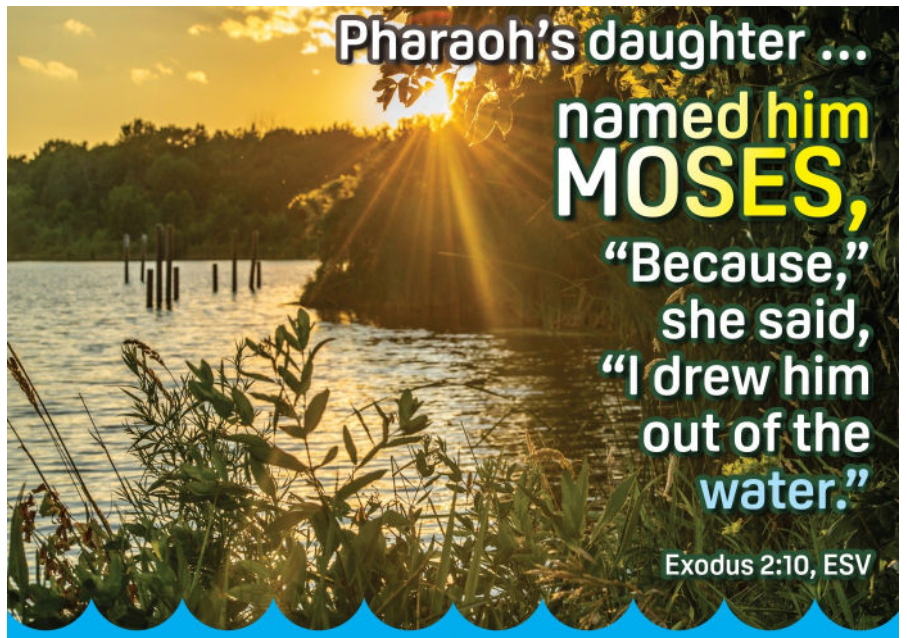


Aldersgate United Methodist Church



9:00 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Larry & Pat Ruth
Lector: Julie Clopper-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

August 27, 2023
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Joseph Rafique, Pastor
402-499-7101 (cell)
402-483-7250 (home)
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.*



August 27, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (9 Joseph, 11 Julie)

Music for Centering Prayer (9:00) “Grace Alone” — arr. Mark Hayes
(11:00) “We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise” — arr. M. Hayes

Call to Worship (9 Joseph, 11 Julie) (based on Romans 12:1-8)

LEADER: Hidden in the quiet of our morning, our ancestors gather among us.
ALL: **Together, we open our hearts to spiritual worship.**
LEADER: We come seeking transformation and the renewing of our minds;
ALL: **so that we might know what the work of justice looks like now in this moment.**
LEADER: We share in the ministry of being one body with differing gifts.
ALL: **Let this time of worship be a time of growing in compassion.**

Opening Prayer (9 Joseph, 11 Julie)

LEADER: Mothering God, midwife of all our experiences and dreams, we thank you for the ways you have brought us into new life over and over again. We praise you for protecting us when the threats of life ensue. We honor you for the cunning and ingenuity with which you have crafted our opportunities to grow and thrive. In humble devotion, we remember your rescuing intervention when the way has been difficult and the light has grown dim.
ALL: **Gathered as your people, wonderful and diverse, we join as one body in worship — remembering your saving Spirit and embodying your creative purpose. Make yourself known to us as we worship, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #117 (red)

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

- O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.
2. Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
 3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.
 4. A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.
 5. Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.
 6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719

MUSIC: William Croft, 1708, harm. by W.H. Monk, 1861

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

PASTOR: We, who look with horror at the oppression of the Pharaohs of Egypt, need to view our own privileged positions. We, like the ancient rulers, enjoy the fruits of others' labor, the benefits of their slave-like toil. We eat food picked by migrant laborers and wear clothing sewn in sweatshops. Our insensitivity separates us from God.

ALL: **Like the Egyptians who had power yet feared those oppressed by it, we confess, O God, that there are times when we do not recognize the power and privilege you have given us. We have been ruthless and have closed our eyes to the possibilities for transformation within our neighborhoods, nation and the world. We have lacked creativity and thrown up our hands in frustration. We confess that we have not always been willing to risk going against the powers of our world to enable life to thrive. We have denied our gifts. Forgive us. Embolden us to resist the oppression that may be commanded or expected. O Justice, forgive us.**

PASTOR: God is the midwife of our lives. God does not abandon us, even when we abandon each other. God is our sister and rescuer. God is with us, forgiving, embracing, loving, renewing. In this, let us be assured. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: O God, there are ways in which we have felt pressed down and hopeless, threatened by the realities of our times. We pray for the financial needs of our church and for the many ways Aldersgate stands against injustice, especially through interfaith groups such as "Justice in Action."

ALL: **Protecting God, be with us as we drift amidst the waters of injustice, struggle and pain.**

PASTOR: Abiding Presence, there are times when our futures seem dim and the possibilities feel limited. We pray for the growth of this and all God's churches.

ALL: **Protecting God, deliver us to a new shore.**

PASTOR: Sustaining Life, there are places in our world that need your transforming grace. We pray for those who are persecuted because of their faith, color or race.

ALL: **Protecting God, enlarge our compassion and courage to share our blessings with others.**

PASTOR: Providing Parent, remembering people who are suffering and striving for new life, we pray for the sick, the grieving, the hungry, the unemployed and homeless and the under paid.

ALL: **Protecting God, help us to reach out with love to all in any kind of need as the agents of healing you have created us to be.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)
For all our spoken and unspoken prayer needs we say:

ALL: **Bring us to new life; bring us to healing shores; bring us to courage and compassion.**

PASTOR: Remembering our call to justice for all, O God, we commit ourselves, our time, and our energy to ways of seeking your justice. Guide us in our efforts. Help us reach out to others for support. Grant us wisdom to offer support to the commitments of others. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, the one whose power was embodied in love and who taught his disciples to pray, 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 #130 (red)

"God Will Take Care of You"

Be not dismayed what-e'er betide, God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

2. Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.
3. All you may need he will provide, God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.
4. No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.

WORDS: Civilla D. Martin, 1904
MUSIC: W. Stillman Martin, 1905

God's Word Proclaimed (9 *John*, 11 *Julie*) Exodus 1:8–2:10

Sermon (*Joseph*) "When 4 Women Defied Societal Laws"

Offertory (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Sometimes it is hard to believe that our small actions can make a difference in the world. Sometimes we feel like an insignificant ripple in a vast ocean. Sometimes we feel this way, even though we know how small actions have greatly affected our lives: the unsuspected kind word; the simplest touch of love. Although our offering may sometimes feel small, know that, by the grace of God, it will have a huge impact on this world; for every action aligned with God's will is perfectly grand.

(9) "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" — arr. Sandra Eithun
(11) "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" — arr. D. Wood

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

PASTOR: We offer these gifts in our desire to live by your story rather than someone else's story. Help us to use them to bring hope in despair and compassion where there is distress. Bless us and every gift we offer with your love.

ALL: **May many be blessed through our sharing of these offerings and our sharing of ourselves, O God. In the name of your Son Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #399 (red)

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1873

MUSIC: Louis J. F. Hérold, 1839; arr. by George Kingsley, 1839

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: Serve the world as people transformed by God..

ALL: **We seek to live as Jesus taught.**

PASTOR: In Christ we are drawn away from conformity to the world.

ALL: **Our agenda is to discern and do God's will.**

PASTOR: Remember that God, who calls us into community with one another, is on our side.

ALL: **In Christ, there are no enemies. We recognize all people as God's children.**

PASTOR: Sisters and brothers, go full of mercy, carrying peace, abundant in generosity and steadfast in the work of love. This is the work of justice. It is shalom that we share. Go into the world knowing God's goodness in your heart and assured that you are loved. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Postlude (9)

(11)

“God Will Take Care of You” — arr. Terry Osman

“Built on a Rock” — arr. G. Young

(Parts of this liturgy have been taken from “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler.)

Announcements

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Today, August 27

International Bat Night

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Wellington Greens Neighborhood Association meeting — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>
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=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>



Monday, August 28

National Bow Tie Day

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

Tuesday, August 29

Chop Suey Day

- 11:00 a.m. OLLI “Never Hitler: European Thinking between World Wars” — Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 30

National Beach Day

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

Thursday, August 31

Eat Outside Day

- 11:00 a.m. OLLI “A Native Plant Garden: Planning & Planting” — Worship Center
- 12:30 p.m. Pizza Party — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 6:30 p.m. Dance Class — Room 7c & d

Friday, September 1

World Letter Writing Day

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

Saturday, September 2

World Coconut Day

- Birthday Party — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, September 3

National Skyscraper 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, September 5

National Be Late for Something Day

- 11:00 a.m. OLLI “Never Hitler: European Thinking between World Wars” — Fellowship Hall
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th

Wednesday, September 6

Read a Book Day

- 1:30 a.m. Book Club *Four Treasures of the Sky* by Jenny Zhang — zoom

Friday, September 8

National Actor’s 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, September 10 **National Grandparent's Day**

10:00 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) kick-off — Room 2. For grades K-12.

10:00 a.m. Psalms — Room 4. Facilitated by Pastor Joe.

10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room

Sunday, September 17 **National Monte Cristo Day**

3-6 p.m. Garden Party — Aldersgate Gardens. Ice cream and activities for all ages, live music, learn about recycling, plants and pollinators.

Tuesday, September 19 **International Talk Like a Pirate Day**

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Four Treasures of the Sky* by Jenny Zhang — Room 4

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

29 Katrena & Tony Anton

Mary Coffey (80)

Jan Drbal

30 Nosheen Rafique

31 Alane Wahlstrom

1 Emily Janak

Dan Steward

2 Tom Drbal

Nadyne Bauer

Jeff Buethe

Dick Easley

Keller Hustad

Dallas Huston

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

Laura Marshall rehabbing at Brookside, 58th & LaSalle

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 has finally come home from the hospital

Ron Rockenbach is scheduled for knee surgery 8/25/23

Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth's cousin, a 5-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease. September is Leukodystrophy Awareness Month.

Freeman Sandquist and his family as he is deployed to Africa.

Andrew Smith left on his deployment 2/5/23

Zach Steward

Corrie Stohlman who's chemo for Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma is no longer helping as much so they are increasing treatments

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

"May the Lord go before Ross Teske and prepare the way for his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain."

Larry Ruth's niece, Kate and her triplets that they are not born too early

Jacob

John

People in Ukraine and those experiencing extreme weather events