

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

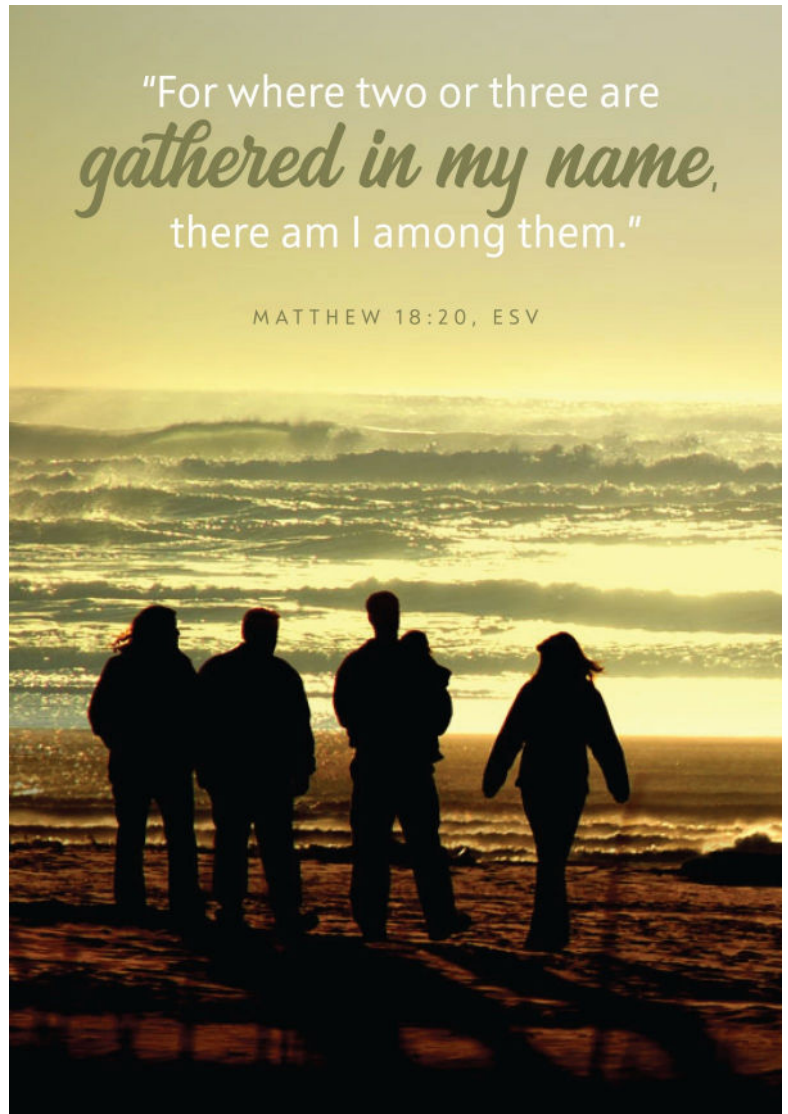
8:30 a.m. Service

With Pastor John Goldrich serving New-
man U.M. Church
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Greeter/Usher: Kari & Tom Beckenhauer

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dan Smith
Lector: Jim Miller

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



**Aldersgate
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.*



September 10, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (8:30 *John*, 11 *Jim*)

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30)
(11:00)

“He Keeps Me Singing” — arr. Mark Hayes
“Gather Us In” — arr. J. Cotter

Call to Worship (8:30 *John*, 11 *Jim*)

LEADER: Jesus said: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

ALL: **And so we gather today in Christ’s name.**

LEADER: Tell the whole congregation of God’s people: This is the day for a new beginning.

ALL: **This is the moment of faithful response to God’s love.**

LEADER: Praise God in the assembly of the faithful. Make melody to God and sing a new song.

ALL: **Praise God for life enriched by love, for love that fulfills God’s law.**

LEADER: This is the hour to wake from our sleep. The Spirit of God fills this place.

ALL: **Here we claim our identity as Christians and become the church of Jesus Christ.**

Opening Prayer (8:30 *John*, 11 *Jim*)

LEADER: Gathered in the name of Jesus, this is a day to celebrate your love, O God, a day of remembering your faithfulness through the centuries, a time for celebrating your vibrant presence with us. We rejoice at the assurance that you take pleasure in us, that we are known by you, called by you, empowered by you to live honorably and humbly, in the spirit of Christ.

ALL: **We would exalt your name and sing for joy, knowing that we can trust you for the guidance and direction we need. Amen.**

Hymn #89 (red)

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

WORDS: Henry Van Dyke, 1907; st. 4 alt. 1989

MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. by Edward Hodges, 1864

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (11 Jim)

JOSEPH: Our ancestors in the faith sometimes sought vengeance on their enemies. Jesus challenged his friends to listen and reconcile those with whom they disagreed. There is much in our lives that is harmful to ourselves and others, much that leads to brokenness and lasting pain. Let us confess our need for healing.

JOHN: *When we make things too complicated to make sense;*

ALL: **Loving God, forgive us.**

JOHN: *When we ignore others around us, or discredit their needs,*

ALL: **Loving God, forgive us.**

JOHN: *When we do not stop to think how our actions affect others, both good and bad,*

ALL: **Loving God, forgive us.**

JOSEPH: When we trust, God is our help and our shield. God's wrath is suspended when we, like the Prodigal Son, come to ourselves and seek forgiveness. God delights in our penitence, forgives our waywardness, and empowers us to turn things around and find newness of life. How wonderful is God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen.

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

PASTOR: God our parent, Jesus promised to always be with those who follow him, we pray for those who live alone and those who are lonely.

ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**

PASTOR: God of justice, Jesus spoke truth to power. We pray for those who suffer for speaking the truth, for your prophets of every generation. We pray for prisoners and for people and organizations that work for the release of those unjustly imprisoned.

ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**

PASTOR: God of compassion, Jesus spoke out for children. We pray for children everywhere, for those who silently cry out for nurture, for those who live in fear and for those who live in poverty. We pray for the children of this community of faith. May they grow in the security of knowing they are your children and part of the Body of Christ.

ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**

PASTOR: We pray for this community of faith, for those who hold positions of authority and responsibility. We pray that we might be so held in your love for each one of us that our relationships are free from envy, competitiveness, and divisiveness. As the Body of Christ, may we embody your love, truth and grace.

ALL: **We hold all to the light of your love, O God.**

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

Bring all your children into the spacious place of your love, O God, and hear our prayers that we offer in our love for you and for our brothers and sisters through Jesus Christ our Lord 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 #140 (8:30 red)

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee,
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou has been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

WORDS: Thomas O Chisholm, 1923

MUSIC: William M. Runyan, 1923; © 1923, renewed 1951 Hope Publishing Co.

Special Music (11)

“One Step He Leads” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God’s Word Proclaimed (8:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Jim*)

Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon (8:30 *John*)
(11 *Joseph*)

“Here You Go. If You Love, You Will Not Do Wrong”
“Wake Me Up, Lord”

Offertory

PASTOR: Our Hebrew ancestors offered the best of their flocks and crops to honor God. We bring symbols of our labor, dedicating them and ourselves to upholding the highest values of human life. May our offerings be a joyous expression of worship.

(8:30)

“Longing” — Mark Hayes

(11)

“Just as I Am, without One Plea” — Wm. Bradbury

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

PASTOR: May these offerings help to free your people, O God, from bondage to sin. Unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share your good news.

ALL: **Keep us in the light when we are tempted to ignore and violate your commandments. With these prayers, we dedicate our gifts. In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn #2223 (black)

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

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Commissioning and Blessing

PASTOR: We are God's servants, sent on a mission. Let us make God's deeds known among the people.

ALL: **We will ready ourselves to go where God sends us.**

PASTOR: Rejoice, for God takes pleasure in us when we live in love.

ALL: **Where two or three gather in Jesus' name, he is there.**

PASTOR: We go now, people of God, to celebrate Jesus' presence with us and to bring him to others.
Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Postlude (8:30)

(11)

"Today We Are All Called to Be Disciples" — arr. Jason W. Krug

"I Come with Joy" — arr. G. Bottomley

(Parts of this liturgy have been taken from "Fresh Winds of the Spirit", "Taught by Love", by Lavon Bayler and
"The Minister's Annual Manual", Logos Productions.)

Announcements

Today, September 10 **National Grandparent's Day**

- 8:30 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
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) -- Room 2. For grades pre-K-12. Tie-dye t-shirts
- 9:45 a.m. Psalms -- Room 4
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up -- Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — 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, September 11 **Patriot Day**

- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta chapter) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Room 4

Tuesday, September 12 **Video Games Day**

- 11:00 a.m. OLLI “Never Hitler: European Thinking between World Wars” — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Finance — Room 4

Wednesday, September 13 **National Peanut Day**

- 10:00 a.m. A.R.M.S. Coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Stonecroft Women's Group — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, September 14 **National Live Creatively Day**

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

Friday, September 15 **National Linguine Day**

- Office is closed.
- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 3:00 p.m. Great Plains United Women in Faith Officer Training — McPherson, KS

Saturday, September 16 **National Guacamole Day**

- 2:00 p.m. Garden Party Set-up — Aldersgate Gardens and Sunshine Room

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

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) — Room 2.
- 9:45 a.m. Psalms — Room 4. Facilitated by Pastor Joe.
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
- 3-6 p.m. Garden Party — Aldersgate Gardens. Ice cream and activities for all ages, live music, learn about recycling, plants and pollinators.
- 7:00 p.m. A Changing Climate: Challenges & Opportunities with Martha Durr, State Climatologist and John Moenning, Norfolk Mayor — First Presbyterian Church, 840 S. 17th

Next Monday, September 18 **National Cheeseburger Day**

7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

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

6:30 p.m. Regional Missionary Presentation & Pie Social with Grace Musuka — St. Paul U.M. Church, 1144 'M' St. Regional missionaries are selected and supported by United Women of Faith and placed in collaboration with the Church's General Board of Global Ministries. Grace serves as coordinator of women's work in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi and Zimbabwe. She is based in the city of Harare. A free will offering will be taken for the UWF Regional Missionary Fund.

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

Wednesday, September 20 **National String Cheese Day**

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, September 21 **International Day of Peace**

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 10** Justin Lanum
- 12** Char Haggar
- 14** Alan Taylor (20)

Nadyne Bauer

Jeff & Beverly Buethe

Dick Easley

Shirley Hanley

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

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