

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**October 8, 2023**  
Clergy Appreciation Day

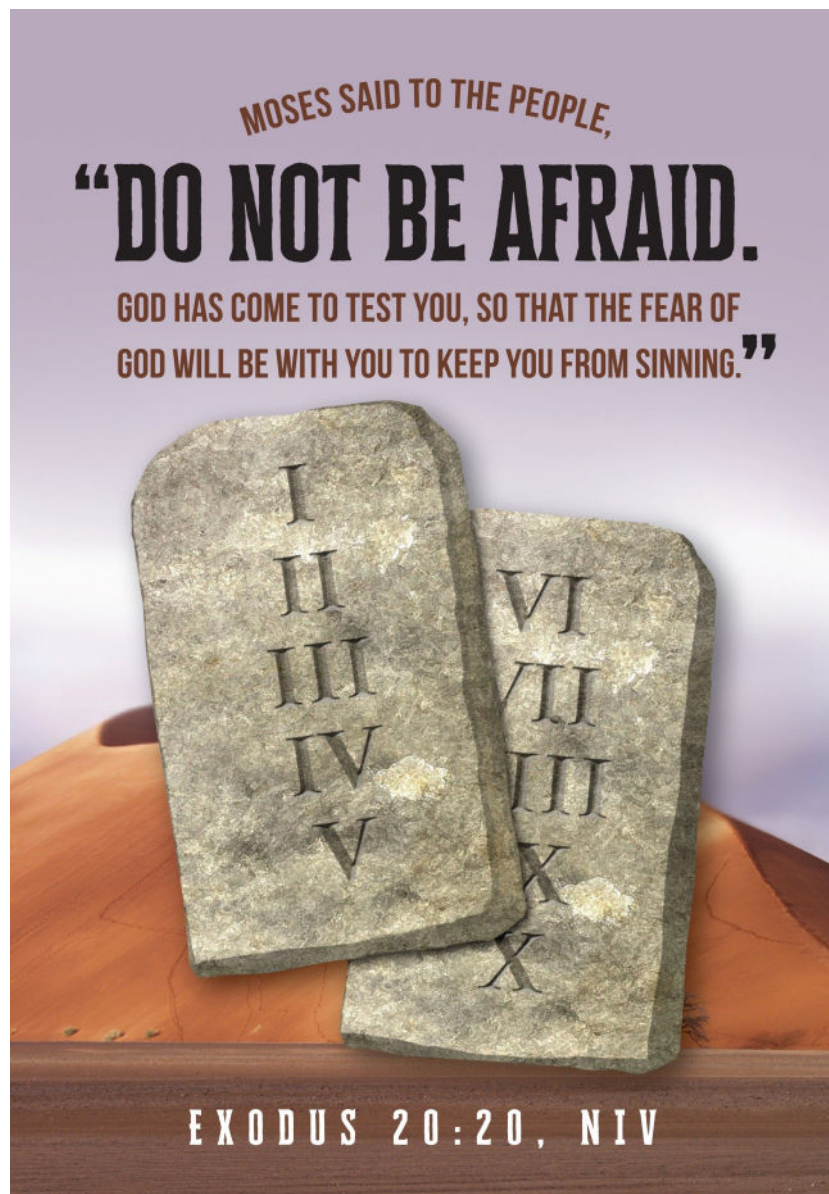
**8:30 a.m.**

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

**11:00 a.m. Service**

Greeter/Usher: Connie Kier  
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members  
Pastor: Joseph Rafique  
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith  
Organist: Mary K. Burns  
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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[aldersgatelinc@gmail.com](mailto:aldersgatelinc@gmail.com)

**Joseph Rafique, Pastor**  
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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.*



October 8, 2023

**Greeting and Announcements** (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*)

**Music for Centering Prayer** (8:30)      “ ‘Tis So Sweet” — arr. Jim Brockman  
(11)      “Blessed Assurance” — arr. P. Knapp

**Call to Worship** (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*)

LEADER: The God who frees us invites us to worship and welcomes our loyal response.

ALL: **The heavens are telling the glory of God. The firmament proclaims God’s handiwork.**

LEADER: God is present with us, eager to speak to us, and keep us free from sin.

ALL: **The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul. God’s decrees are sure, making wise the simple.**

LEADER: We tremble before God, yet are not afraid. We are ready to listen to God’s word.

ALL: **May the words of our mouths and the meditations of all our hearts praise and honor you today and every day.**

**Opening Prayer** (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*)

LEADER: O God, our rock and our redeemer, enlighten us today through the ancient witness of your faithful people.

ALL: **Lead us to desire the guidance of your word.**

LEADER: Remind us of your ordinances that are true and righteous altogether.

ALL: **May they shape our living and warn us when we are in error.**

LEADER: We seek to honor your name, to divest ourselves of idols, to keep this day of rest and worship holy.

ALL: **Work with us to develop right relationships in our families and with all your children near and far, we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Hymn #381** (red)

**“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast brought us, thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;  
keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

3. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;  
thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.

4. Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.

WORDS: Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836  
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1859

**Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation** (*John*) (To err is human, to forgive is divine.)

PASTOR: Some of us are haunted by the evil we have done to others. Some harbor hatred against a sister or brother. Some are tired of forgiving again and again. All of us are in debt to a loving God who never gives up on us. Let us seek to make things right once more in our relationship with God and all humankind.

ALL: **O God, we have no righteousness of our own. We have bent and ignored your law. We give lip service to your law and seek to avoid its implication for our lives. We recognize some of our errors, but many are hidden from us. We depend on our accumulated wealth that functions as idols in our lives. Save us, we pray and help us to reorder our days. Amen.**

PASTOR: May God, who is slow in anger but rich in mercy, forgive us our shortcomings, strengthen us in good works and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: God, you are the essence of life, and you long for all people to share in the goodness you offer. As we learn to live in the power of your Spirit, we are so aware of a beautiful world torn apart by all those things addressed in the laws that you gave to your people through Moses.

We pray for people whose lives have been shattered by the anger, malice and destructiveness that murders relationships. (silence)

We pray for communities, countries and cultures afflicted by the ravages of war, greed, intolerance and oppression. (silence)

We pray for homes and families struggling with the demands of employment and the expectations of success constantly demanding attention. (silence)

We pray for people who are seeking to forge new relationships, venturing into uncertain territory, and wondering how they will shape their futures in ways that bring hope to the land. (silence)

We pray for people who are learning to live with enough, daring to resist the endless expectations for more, and working for the common good of even those who rebuke and ridicule. (silence)

We pray for those quiet, persistent voices that remind us all that there is a language of the Cosmos inviting hope and stirring the precious life within toward a holy wholeness. (silence)

What prayer needs would you like to lift up?

Holy One, may we be the people who cultivate kindness, stir the sparks of truth and listen in the silence for your voice. May we be people attentive to care, who discern the spirit of the law that brings freedom to live and life for all. Let it be so in Jesus' name 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 #529** (8:30, red, vs. 3-4 read)

**"How Firm a Foundation"**

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can he say than to you he hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;  
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

4. "When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
the flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5. "The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake."

WORDS: "K" in Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787

MUSIC: Early USA melody; harm. from *Tabor*, 1866

**Special Music** (11)

"If Ye Love Me" — *Aldersgate Choir*

**God's Word Proclaimed** (8:30 *John*, 11 *Stacey*)

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Matthew 21:33-46

**Sermon** (*Joseph*)

"What Part of 'You Shall Not' Don't You Understand?"

**Offertory** (8:30)  
(11)

"Prayerful Thoughts" — Terry Osmond  
"Cornerstone" — arr. P. Keveren

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

PASTOR: O God, use us to create space for every grumbling and complaint to be met with compassion and grace. We want to be faithful people. All that we have is yours. Our lives are in your hands.

ALL: **Help us to use well all that we here devote to the work of your church. Help us to manage well, to your honor and glory, all that we retain for ourselves. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.**

**Hymn #2158** (black)

**"Just a Closer Walk"**

I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.  
Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

WORDS and MUSIC: Anon.

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

PASTOR: With eyes enlightened and hearts made pure, we go forth to pass on God's love and to serve with joy.

ALL: **With souls revived, we go out rejoicing.**

PASTOR: All that we have is a gift from God. Most important are not things but Christ.

ALL: **We seek to gain Christ and to dwell together in Christ's body the church.**

PASTOR: May God: the Creator, the Redeemer and the Sustainer, bless us and grant us the desire to seek your will. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

**Postlude** (8:30)  
(11)

"The Solid Rock" — arr. Marianne Kim

"How Firm a Foundation" — arr. P. Cardall

(Parts of today's liturgy have been taken from *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler.)

# Announcements

## Today, October 8

### Clergy Appreciation Day

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online  
<https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463> or at your convenience at [www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://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. Craft
- 9:45 a.m. Psalms -- Worship Center
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up -- Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:00 p.m. CROP Walk — Bethany Christian Church, 1645 N. Cotner
- 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, October 9

### Indigenous People's Day

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith with Jeanette Fagerberg — Room 4
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta chapter) — Fellowship Hall
- 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 (if participating via phone)  
• +1 312 626 6799



## Tuesday, October 10

### National Love Your Hair Day

- 9:30 a.m. Retired Ministers and Spouses (A.R.M.S.) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Finance — Zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09>  
Meeting ID: 326 776 8816  
Passcode: 4024891510  
Dial by your location (if participating by phone)  
• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



## Wednesday, October 11

### National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day

- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women's Connection — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

## Thursday, October 12

### World Arthritis Day

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

## Friday, October 13

### Silly Sayings Day

- Church Office is closed.
- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship while playing 10 Point Pitch.

