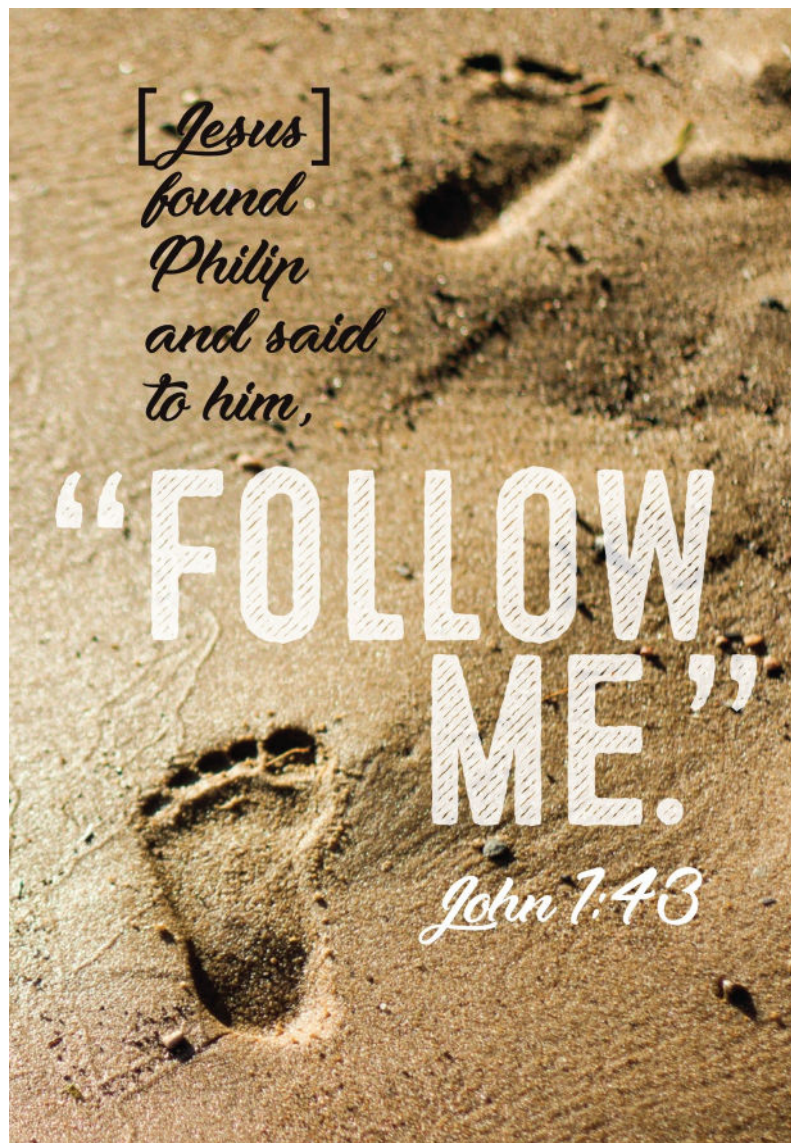


Aldersgate United Methodist Church

January 14, 2024
Human Relations Day

8:30 a.m.

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



Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
Organist: Jan Malone
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

**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.*



January 14, 2024

Greeting and Announcements (*John*)

Music for Centering Prayer

“He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought” — arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship (*John*)

(based on Psalm 139)

LEADER: God is calling. Do you not hear? You are being called by name, for a purpose.

ALL: **God, you have searched us and know us. You discern our thoughts from far away.**

LEADER: Do not confuse the siren calls of the world for God’s call. Do not confuse the values of this world for God’s values.

ALL: **You know, O God, when we sit and when we stand. You know when we lie down and where we go.**

LEADER: Your words and our deeds are known to God. You were known to God before you were born.

ALL: **Your knowledge of us is more than we can understand. Your thoughts embrace us amid all you have created.**

Opening Prayer (*John*)

LEADER: We have come together, all knowing God, because you have spoken your word of summons and welcome. We are drawn irresistibly to the promise of your presence and by the persistence of your call. Speak to your servants here in ways we can understand. We want to hear the message you intend for us.

ALL: **We want to listen, not because someone else needs to have it told to them, but because we ourselves are needy sinners. Your expectations of us are high and holy. We tremble before you, eager for the heavens to be opened in our midst for our transformation. Please listen to our prayer, O God all knowing, for we make it in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn #139 (red, read vs. 3-4)

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*Joseph*) (An unexamined life is not worth living. — *Aristotle*)

PASTOR: We can hide nothing from God, who knows our every thought. God is aware of sins we have not recognized. Whenever we have broken a solemn trust, whenever we have acted on selfish impulse, whenever we have trampled the feelings of others or ignored their need, God has noticed. We cannot be right with God unless we examine ourselves and repent.

ALL: **O God, our lives are an open book to you. Help us to recognize in ourselves what you have seen there. Remove the distortions that keep us from acknowledging our sin. Awaken in us a sorrow over the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. Create in us an eager desire to change. O God, we are in touch with the pain we have caused and the pain within us. Because of your love and care, we can face and overcome the sins we here confess.**

PASTOR: God has heard your cries and felt your pain. Your struggles to know yourself are prompted by God’s love. In that love know that God forgives you and strengthens you to do what he expects of you. You, who have been bought with a price, seek to honor and glorify God. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer #895 (red)

JOHN: *We live in a world that is closed in, where we focus on only our own, seeing our own needs,*

JOSEPH: *we pray for a world that is open, looking outwards, seeing beyond ourselves. May this be our way of living. We ask of the Lord,*

ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

JOHN: *In a world where the few hold so much power, where food and opportunity is so unfairly divided,*
 JOSEPH: we pray for a world that shares, recognizing each other's needs, and sharing each problem. We ask of the Lord,
 ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
 JOHN: *In a world where conflict is the chosen way, and might feeds every prejudice,*
 JOSEPH: we pray for a world that lives in peace, where differences are celebrated, and variety brings wholeness. We ask of the Lord,
 ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
 JOHN: *In a world whose value is financial, and global warming a topic for debate,*
 JOSEPH: we pray for a world that values what it has, and values its diversity and beauty as a blessing from you. We ask of the Lord,
 ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
 JOSEPH: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)
 For these prayer needs we ask of the Lord,
 ALL: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
 JOSEPH: Be with us all, Lord: in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you. Be with us all, Lord: in our periods of doubt and despair and in our times of happiness, health and loving. Be with us all, Lord: until that time when in your Kingdom of Love, our joy will know no end. And until then we will continue to pray 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.**

Hymn #451 (red)

“Be Thou My Vision”

Word of God Proclaimed (*John*)
 (*Joseph*)

I Samuel 3:1-20
 John 1:43-51

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“Pass It On”

Offertory (*Joseph*)

We have been bought with a price. God has made a costly investment in humanity. For love's sake, God sent Christ among us. For love's sake, we make the offering of ourselves and our resources the high point of our worship.

“Reflection” — Mark Hayes

Doxology (to the tune of #95 red)

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
 praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

MUSIC: attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We have heard you calling us, loving God, in the cries of your children — cries for bread, for justice, for relief. We have seen you beckoning to us amid the corporate greed and social distortions of our day. We have felt the pain of sisters and brothers caught up in damaging relationships that violate your holy temple within them.

ALL: **We want to help, and we believe your church can be Christ's healing presence for them. Show us the way to be messengers of your powerful good news. May our offerings be used for the transformation of church and society, individuals and groups. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn #128 (red)

“He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought”

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: Jesus said, “Follow me,” so Philip followed. Jesus says to us, “Follow me!” Will we follow?

ALL: **We do not always know where Jesus will lead. But we hear the call, and we intend to follow.**

PASTOR: Philip found Nathaniel and led him to Jesus. There are many we know whom Jesus is seeking.

ALL: **It is often difficult to share our faith with friends. But we hear the call and we intend to invite them.**

PASTOR: Jesus promised, “You will see greater things that I have shown you.” We are Christ’s messengers of revelation today.

ALL: **Wonderful are the works of God. Christ is our mentor, our Savior and friend.**

PASTOR: Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

(Thank you to those who have participated in today’s worship. You are invited to stay and listen or leave as you wish.)

Postlude

“Sanctuary” — arr. Marianne Kim

(Today’s liturgy has been taken and adapted from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler.)

Announcements

Today, January 14

Human Relations 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
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
<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/kcFkfw3laD>



Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- Church Office is closed.
7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, January 16

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
6:30 p.m. Confirmation — Aldersgate office
7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Other Mother* — Room 4

Wednesday, January 17

- 3:00 p.m. Dementia Support Group — Stauffer's Café
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, January 18

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Friday, January 19

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

Saturday, January 20

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast "Aldersgate Gardens — A Fully Certified Arboretum?" with Steve Schafer — Fellowship Hall

Next Sunday, January 21

Ecumenical Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center and online
9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service Surprise Sunday — Room 2
9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Worship Center
11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center
1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Next Monday, January 22

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

Tuesday, January 23

- 1:30 p.m. Caregiver Education Group "Dealing with Fraud and Scams" — Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry "Solar Options for LES Customers, LES Sustainable Energy Program (SEP) for 2024, Energy Saving Tips" with Jay Stoa and Jennifer Bangert from LES — Worship Center or online

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Tuesday, February 6

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th. Fellowship with Seniors.

Wednesday, February 7

12:00 p.m. Nebraska Caregiver Coalition “Grief and the Ripple Effect” — webinar

1:30 p.m. Book Club *The Seed Keeper: A Novel* by Diane Wilson — Room 4

Saturday, February 10

8:00 a.m. Nebraska Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 A St.
Choose 2 topics: Economics of Exclusion, Mental Health, Education, Environment,
School Safety, Housing. Cost: \$20 includes lunch. Please register at www.nelegisbrief.org by
Saturday, February 3

Monday, February 12

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith “Installation of Officers, Pledge Service” — Room 4

Tuesday, February 13

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

Wednesday, February 14 Valentine’s Day

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service — Worship Center

Thursday, February 15

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, February 17

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

14 Roger Eschliman

Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley

Keller Hustad

Lynda Nordyke

Jacob

Judy Faubel

Dallas Huston

Zach Steward

John

Shirley Hanley

Laura Marshall

Roxanne & Richard Swyers



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

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.

Freeman Sandquist and his family as he is deployed in Somalia.

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

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

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine