

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

April 21, 2024
Festival of God's Creation

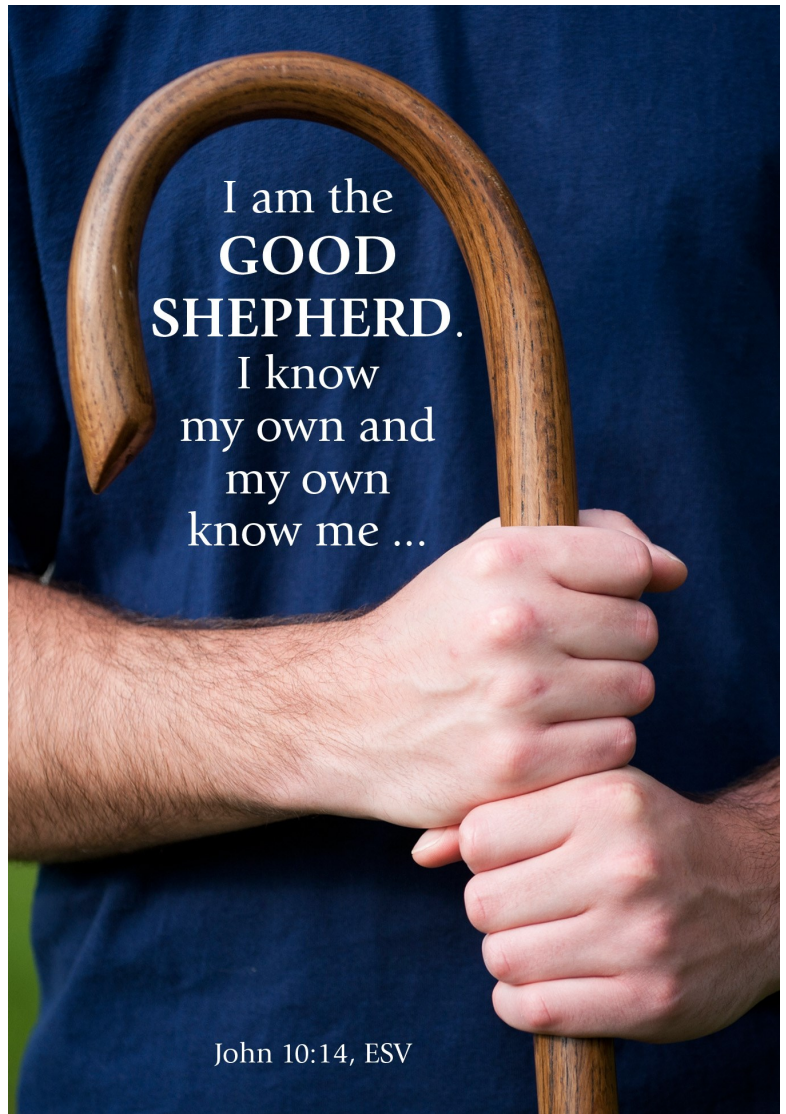
8:30 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Song Leaders: Dan & Kara Steward
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Greeters/Ushers: Kari & Tom Beckenhauer

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dick Easley
Lector: Harry Kellenbarger

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



I am the
**GOOD
SHEPHERD.**
I know
my own and
my own
know me ...

John 10:14, ESV

**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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Lincoln, NE 68506-6540
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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.*



April 14, 2024

Greeting and Announcements (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Best of all,

ALL: **God is with us!**

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

“Grace Alone” — arr. Mark Hayes

“Shepherd Medley” — arr. D. Wood

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

LEADER: The Good Shepherd invites us to green pastures and refreshing still waters.

ALL: **We have been given everything we have. God offers us everything we need.**

LEADER: When we walk through darkest valleys, God is with us. We are comforted and reassured.

ALL: **God leads us in the right paths. Our cups are filled to overflowing.**

LEADER: God welcomes us to the table where love is expressed.

ALL: **We have received plenty that we might share. We are called to be God’s helpers.**

LEADER: Come, let us worship this generous and loving God.

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

LEADER: Loving and living God, we gather together today, guided by you, our Shepherd. You protect and care for us; you lead us as we journey through life. During this time of worship,

ALL: **we ask that our ears are open to hear your word, our eyes are open to see your light, our hearts are open to feel your love. As your sheep, we know love, and we have heard the commandment to love one another. May our worship be a testament to your love and our dedication to love one another. In the name of the risen Christ we ask. Amen.**

Hymn #307 (red)

“Christ Is Risen”

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

PASTOR: Standing before the religious authorities in Jerusalem, Peter cried out, “the stone rejected by you, the builders, has become the cornerstone.” Like those who threw Peter and John in prison and placed law before love, we too confess that we have rejected the stone that is Christ Jesus and ask God’s forgiveness. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

PASTOR: In our doubt, we have turned towards false securities, hopes and promises. In our ignorance, we have invested in artificial love and cheap grace. So, we ask God’s forgiveness. Christ, have mercy.

ALL: **Christ, have mercy.**

PASTOR: In our defiance, we have denied our beliefs and ignored your guidance. We, too, have rejected the stone in these ways and others. Lord, have mercy.

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

PASTOR: People of God, be assured that even though the stone was rejected, it now sits as the cornerstone, ever-present, ever-forgiving, everlasting. You are forgiven, stand firm on this foundation, proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ now and forever. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: Good Shepherd, there are many among us today and throughout the world who are walking through the deepest of valleys: for those who are suffering physically, spiritually,

mentally or relationally, we pray for their wellbeing saying,

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

PASTOR: Loving God, there are many who feel lonely and isolated, for those whose poor choices and behavior have limited their futures, and those who are victims of others' poor choices and behaviors, for those entering into their final days . . .
for all these and others, we pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: God of peace, there is so much unrest, violence and war within and around us.
We pray that your peace which surpasses all understanding, may come upon your people.
We pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: For the leaders of the world, for our local leaders and for all bishops and pastors that as they lead God's people, they may be guided by His wisdom and compassion.
We pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)
For these our needs, we pray to the Lord,

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

PASTOR: Lord, grant that your children may know they are cherished members of your flock. May they rest in green pastures and still waters, receive offerings of comfort and protection, be welcomed at the table of plenty and blessings overflowing. We lift their needs to you, our protector and caregiver, wrapped in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

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 #381 (red, 8:30 vs. 1-2, 4)
Special Music (11)

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”
“Psalm of the Shepherd” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God's Word Proclaimed

Psalm 23

© Dave Hopwood/engageworship.org

The Lord is my shepherd,

my guide, my navigator, my personal trainer, my president, my mentor. The one I look to. . . .
I have everything I need.

I want plenty of things, long for so much, desire a world of things. But what Lord, do I need?

He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

Lord, we burn ourselves out at times, take on too much.

Please help us to pause, to find moments of refreshment amidst the busyness.

He renews my strength.

We are so tired at times, so wrung out from the day.

Renew our strength Lord, please, give us patience and endurance.

He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

It's easy to get lost, to become distracted and lose our way.

Please guide us in our decision making this week Lord.

Even when I walk through the dark valley of evil, I will not be afraid,

The news can be bad, it can frighten and overwhelm us.

Help us to see it through your eyes, give us comfort, compassion and courage.

for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

Popular opinion informs us that there is nothing out there, but you promise to always be with us, to never leave us. Help us to remember that Lord in all that happens this week.

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.

Enemies appear in many guises — peer pressure cynicism, rebuffs and negative criticism.

Your word offers us a feast of encouragement. Thank you Lord.

You welcome me as a guest, anointing my head with oil.

Help us to keep in mind that we are your prodigal children, welcomed home, forgiven, invited in.

My cup overflows with blessings. Surely your goodness and love will pursue me forever.

I will live in the presence of the Lord all my days.

Thank you for all the good things in our lives, and the promise of fullness of life with you.

Amen.

Gospel Lesson (8:30 *John*, 11 *Joseph*) John 10:11-18

Sermon (8:30 *John*) “I Know My Own and My Own Know Me”
(11 *Joseph*) “So Much More than a Hired Hand”

Offertory (*John*)

To the one who has commanded us to love one another, we give thanks for the love we have received. Hugs, prayers, gifts, words of encouragement, forgiveness and grace. In recognition of all we are given, let us now commit to acting in love. Sharing, caring and sacrificing, being patient, generous, selfless, risking judgment, loss, disappointment. Let us offer all the love we have in all the ways we can until our doing becomes our being. Let us do love, let us be love, in the name of the one who is love.

(8:30)

“Gentle Shepherd” — arr. Carol Tornquist

(11)

“Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” — W.B. Bradbury

Doxology (to the tune of #95 red) “Praise God”

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 Dedication of Gifts and Self (*John*)

PASTOR: How can we express our thanks, O God, for the One who laid down life itself in witness to your love for all people? We are aware that many have not experienced that love.

ALL: **We see their need, and we want to respond. Use us, our talents and our time to bring healing and peace to others not of this fold. Draw us together as one flock in the care of one shepherd, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #384 (red, vs. 1-2) “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: You have heard it proclaimed how much our Good Shepherd loves us.

ALL: **We thank our Good Shepherd for laying down his life for us and for being with us always.**

PASTOR: Go from this place taking this love to share with family and friends, as well as stranger and foe, gifting it to the hurt and sick, the lonely and troubled. Be bold, be humble, be love. “And may the God of peace, who brought back from the dead, our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the flood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working among us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 13:20-21

ALL: **Amen.**

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

Postlude (8:30) “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” — arr. Mark Hayes
(11) “Sheep May Safely Graze” — J.S. Bach

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

Announcements

Today, April 21

Festival of God's Creation

- 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. *The Chosen* “Thunder” season 2, episode 1 — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. A.K.T.S. (Aldersgate Kids Take on Service) Noah’s Ark Games with Katie Softley — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Potato Bake — Sunshine Room
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
<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>
- 4:00 p.m. Lincoln Organ Showcase with Elena Baquerizo — First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th St.



Tuesday, April 23

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group (Resources to Assist Caregivers at Home) — Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class — South Gate U.M. Church

Wednesday, April 24

- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry “Flooding in Lincoln” with Dave Landis — Worship Center

Thursday, April 25

World Malaria Day

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 7:00 p.m. Learning Key Result Team — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Sunshine Room

Friday, April 26

- Church Office is closed.
- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Saturday, April 27

- 8:30 a.m. Spring Biomass Clean-up — Aldersgate Gardens
- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Abendmusik “The Wartburg Choir” from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA. Freewill offering benefits the Center for People.

Next Sunday, April 28

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. A.K.T.S. (Aldersgate Kids Take on Service) Service Sunday with Carol Clymer — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
- 2-6 p.m. Open House — Camp Fontanelle, 9677 Co. Rd. 3, Nickerson, NE
- 2:00 p.m. Parkinson’s Support Group — Sheridan Lutheran Church

Next Monday, April 29

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

Wednesday, May 1

May Day

1:30 p.m. Book Club *Signal Fires* by Dani Shapiro — Room 4

Friday, May 3

May Friendship Day

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Lee's Chicken, 1940 W. Van Dorn. Seniors fellowship together.

Thursday, May 9

Ascension Day

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Room 4

Friday, May 10

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 13

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Mother Purse-onalities" — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn

Wednesday, May 15

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, May 16

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Prayer List

Anniversaries & Birthdays This Week

- 21 Maika Kellenbarger
- 22 Connie Kier
- 27 Colleen & Dave Nielsen
Keith Wysocki (40)

Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Jason Byrd, Angela Huff & Joshua

Dick Easley

Shirley Hanley

Laura Marshall

Chandra and AJ Pfenning

Larry, Sandy Gores' dad

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

Connie Kier with pneumonia

Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki's sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments

Ava Miles, Phyllis Nelson's niece, was diagnosed with gastroparesis. Prayers for healing, that her new medication helps and wisdom for the medical team.

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.

The family of Ron Schafer, Steve's oldest brother, who died April 14

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

