

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

October 1, 2023
World Communion Sunday

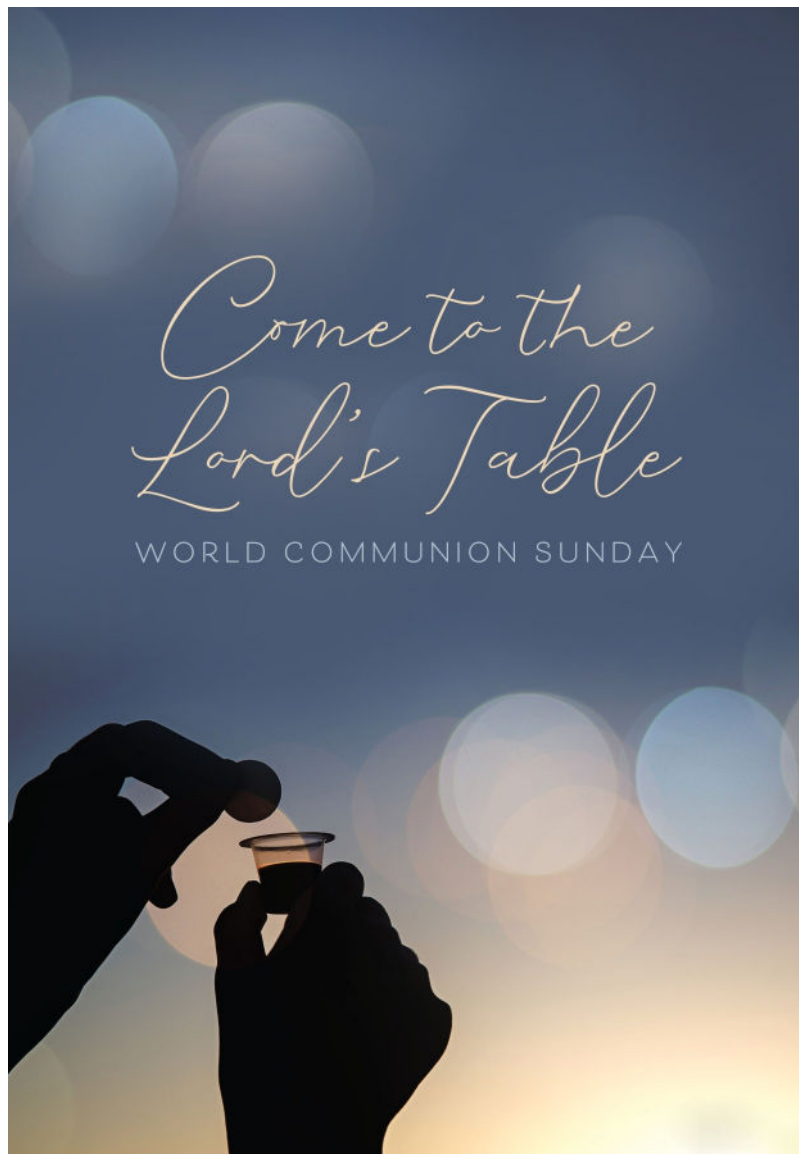
8:30 a.m.

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

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Sheila Kellenbarger
Lector: Rod Moore

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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*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



October 1, 2023

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

Hymn #2171 (black)

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

2. Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there’s sadness, ever joy.

3. Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek

so much to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love with all my soul.

4. Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

in giving of ourselves that we receive,

and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

WORDS: Prayer of St. Francis; adapt. by Sebastian Temple

MUSIC: Sebastian Temple © 1967 OCP Publications

Introduction

Today is World Communion Sunday, a day when Christian churches around the world have all agreed to celebrate Communion as a sign of our oneness in Jesus Christ. Not all Christian traditions participate, but many do, and the day is a powerful reminder of our unity in Christ despite the theological, political, linguistic and cultural differences in the church around the world. Let us rejoice in our oneness and work towards it.

Music for Centering Prayer

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” with “O Worship the King”

— arr. Erinn Jarrell Schwarz

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

LEADER: Give ear, O people. Remember the stories your ancestors told. Give thanks for the glorious deeds of God.

ALL: **We give thanks and remember.**

LEADER: Incline your ears, O people. Listen to the stories we tell each other.

ALL: **We are listening.**

LEADER: Open your mouth, O people. Search this wide world for reasons to praise. Give voice to the hope we need in a world full of conflict and discord.

ALL: **We will share these wonders from generation to generation.**

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

LEADER: God of desert days and wilderness nights, we thank you for your presence among us. We trust your words and actions that tell the story of who we are in you and from where we have come. We thank you for the abundance of your gifts and for the blessing of the unexpected.

ALL: **Help us to humble ourselves in order to obey you, to listen in order to hear, to care in order to serve. Lead us day and night through the dangers of the wilderness of our times. Lead us in these moments to honest and fervent worship. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.**

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

PASTOR: On this worldwide Communion Sunday, let us bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need, to God's loving care. God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to You in His name. Confident in your love and mercy, we offer our prayers. Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness. Break down the barriers that divide, that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table and serve you in one common ministry. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed and vain ambition, and bow to your sovereign rule. Inspire them to strive for peace and justice, that all your children may dwell secure, free of war and injustice. Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace. Guide those who make and administer our laws to build a society based on trust and respect. Erase prejudices that oppress; free us from crime and violence, guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism. Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony. Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources, the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, medical care and shelter, and so have the necessities of a life of dignity. Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home. Help us put an end to ravishing its land, air and waters, and give us respect for all your creatures, that, living in harmony with everything you have made, your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise to your glorious name. Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship. Fill our hearts with your self-giving love, that our voices may speak your praise, and our lives may conform to the image of your Son. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments that we may faithfully minister in your name, and witness to your love and grace for all the world. Lord in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Look with compassion on all who suffer. Support with your love those with incurable and stigmatized diseases, those unjustly imprisoned, those denied dignity, those who live without hope, those who are homeless or abandoned. As you have moved toward us in love, so lead us to be present with them in their suffering in the name of Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Sustain those among us who need your healing touch. Make the sick whole (especially . . .). Give hope to the dying (especially . . .). Comfort those who mourn (especially . . .). Uphold all who suffer in body or mind, not only those we know and love but also those known only to you, that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care. Lord, in your mercy,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: O God, in your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes. In all things for which we pray, give us the will to seek to bring them about, for the sake of Jesus Christ, 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 #620 (8:30, red) #620 (red) “One Bread, One Body”

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one, for all.
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

WORDS and MUSIC: John B. Foley, 1978; harm. by Gary Alan Smith, 1988
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Special Music (11) “The Whisper” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God’s Word Proclaimed (8:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Rod*) Exodus 17:1-7
Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon (8:30 *John*) “We Are Thirsty and Want Water”
(11 *Joseph*) “Church People Beware!”

Reading (*Joseph*) “Yeast Thoughts” by Mike Hodge

Yeast makes bread rise because of the bubbles of gas that it produces. When the yeast is mixed throughout the dough, the bread rises and has the proper rough and airy texture. But if all of the yeast is lumped together in one small part of the dough, the bread won’t rise evenly and will have big, empty holes in it. Even so, the church — the people of the Kingdom — must be intimately involved in life, in the world, in the flour of humanity. When we have clustered ourselves together, fearfully barricaded behind sanctuary walls, we have created great, empty holes in God’s world that are filled with nothing but hot air. But if we who call ourselves yeast are willing to become so involved in the pain, the despair, and the laughter of life that our main concern becomes enabling people to grow into all that they can be — then God’s bread will become perfect in quality, with yeast permeating every part of the dough. Being involved with life — intimately mixed through and through it — sounds dangerous. Yeast dies in the oven, having lost itself to the creation of something new. May we also be willing to lose ourselves.

Sacrament of Holy Communion (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: We come as we are to this shared meal. Thank you, God, for bringing us together. You are the God who creates from a blank canvas. You are the friend who grounds us. You are the Spirit who ignites us.

ALL: **Thank you, God, for being you. You are rich like the soil. You nourish and sustain life. You pack intense energy into a spark.**

PASTOR: We give thanks for our friend, Jesus. Jesus made everyday meals with his friends special. Jesus invited everyone, especially those others feared or disliked, to be his friend. Jesus called all people to share in his work of justice making and peace building.

ALL: **We give thanks for the life and ministry of Jesus.**

PASTOR: We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

ALL: **Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.**

PASTOR: We come to the table seeking comfort and joy! We come to this meal, offering our whole selves. We come to this feast, expecting the hope of resurrection.

ALL: **We thank you, God, for the blessings of this meal.**

PASTOR: We give thanks for disciples, teachers, apostles, ministers, and saints around the world of yesterday and today. We give thanks for the disciples among us; those living, learning and loving in Jesus' way: (pause for names).

ALL: **We thank you, God, for the gift of discipleship.**

PASTOR: On the night before he died, Jesus had a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed and broke it, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

This is not my table or your table, this is not the table of Aldersgate or of the United Methodist Church. This is Christ's table. We remember those with whom Jesus would have us share this feast. We celebrate those from around the world with whom we are in communion through this meal. We give thanks to God for making us one with all in and through Jesus, his Son, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

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

PASTOR: We have found ourselves in conflict. Our whole world is divided. We have not escaped every quarrel. The conflict is still with us. The tension is in our bodies. Though the discord we feel may not yet have words, it lives in us. Let us confess our shortcomings and ask for forgiveness of God and each other.

We confess before God and each other the family quarrels and grudges we keep. (silence)

ALL: **We hold each other in the forgiveness we never received.**

PASTOR: We hold each other in the daily divisions that confront us in headlines and newsfeed. (silence)

ALL: **We hold each other within the grumblings that feel unheard and ignored.**

PASTOR: We hold each other in the frustration that no resolution has yet come. (silence)

Beloved, know that God is at work in each of us. Know that compassionate God forgives us every time we ask for forgiveness, enabling us to both will and work for the realm we dream will come. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ

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

Holy God, with this offering we tell your story, how you sustain us from generation to generation. How you deal generously with us, blessing us beyond measure. Indeed, your goodness is everlasting, lasting forever. Accept the gifts of our hands and the thankfulness of our hearts. Bless them to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ to all the world. Amen.

Hymn #2226 (black)

“Bind Us Together, Lord”

Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
there is only one body, that is why we sing.
Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

WORDS and MUSIC: Bob Gillman
© 1977 Kingsway’s Thank You Music

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Today we have remembered the glorious deeds of God. We have recalled how God made streams come out of the rock in the wilderness, causing water to flow down like rivers. Empowered and blessed by God the creator, Jesus the redeemer, and in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must go and tell new generations of God’s glorious deeds. In our words, thoughts and actions, may we proclaim the glorious deeds of our God. Amen.

ALL: **Amen. Amen.**

Postlude

“For the Fruit of All Creation” — arr. Zach Lenke

Announcements

Today, October 1 World Communion Sunday

- 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. Making unleavened bread
- 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. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room
- 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>
- 3:30-6 p.m. Fall Fest — Camp Fontanelle with Bishop Wilson. 5:00 p.m. Annual fundraising dinner

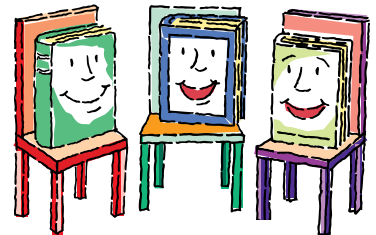


Tuesday, October 3 National Butterfly & Hummingbird Day

- 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 St.

Wednesday, October 4 Cinnamon Roll Day

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver — Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84680892716?pwd=VEZRSEY3U1pXZi9na2hXbm5KV0dWZz09>
Meeting ID: 846 8089 2716
Passcode: 190627
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center



Thursday, October 5 Do Something Nice Day

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

Friday, October 6 Garlic Lovers Day

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

Saturday, October 7 Bathtub Day

- 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly Fall Rally — Sunshine Room
- 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze — Camp Fontanelle

Next Sunday, October 8 Clergy Appreciation 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. Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray
- 9:45 a.m. Psalms — Worship Center. Facilitated by Pastor Joe.
- 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

Next Monday, October 9 Indigenous People's Day

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith with Jeanette Fagerberg — Fireside Room, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma (Zeta chapter) — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Room 4

Friday, October 13 Silly Sayings Day

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship while playing 10 Point Pitch.

Tuesday, October 17 National Pasta Day

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Demon Copperhead* — Room 4

Wednesday, October 18 Love Your Body Day

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4. Tie quilts for missions.

Thursday, October 19 Dress Like a Dork Day

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom. Share prayer concerns

Saturday, October 21 Eat a Pretzel Day

8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast with Gary Hosek — Room 4. Catered by Hy-Vee.

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

| | | | |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Frankey Ostlund | Julie Pearson (40) | Konpal Rafique |
| 4 | Amanda Vlasnik | | |
| 5 | Gordon Ostlund | | |
| 6 | Colleen Nielsen | | |
| 7 | Luke Stone | Roni Vlasnik | |

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Nadyne Bauer | Dick Easley | Shirley Hanley |
| Keller Hustad | Dallas Huston | Jacob |

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

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

Sandy Quathammer who is in the memory unit of Pemberly Place

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

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|--------------|----------|------|
| Zach Steward | Bob Snow | John |
|--------------|----------|------|

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

People in Ukraine and those experiencing extreme weather events

