

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church



## 9:00 a.m. Service

Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward  
Videographer: Nancy Taylor  
Greeter/Usher: Tom Haggar  
Lector: Bill Nelson

## 11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Sheila Kellenbarger  
Lector: Jan Malone

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

**September 3, 2023**  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**Aldersgate  
United Methodist Church**  
8320 South Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506-6540  
[www.aldersgatelinc.org](http://www.aldersgatelinc.org)  
402-489-1510 (church office)  
[aldersgatelinc@gmail.com](mailto:aldersgatelinc@gmail.com)

**Joseph Rafique, Pastor**  
402-499-7101 (cell)  
402-483-7250 (home)  
[jrafique@GreatPlainsUMC.org](mailto: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.*



September 3, 2023

**Greeting and Announcements** (*Bill*)

**Music for Centering Prayer** (9:00)  
(11:00)

“Faith” — Jim Brickman  
“Be Still, My Soul” — arr. J. Sibelius

**Call to Worship** (*9 Bill, 11 Jan*)

LEADER: Praise God!

ALL: **We will sing praises to God.**

LEADER: Praise God!

ALL: **We will seek God’s strength and presence continually.**

LEADER: Praise God!

ALL: **We will remember God’s wonderful works throughout the ages.**

LEADER: Praise God!

ALL: **For it is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Opening Prayer** (*9 Bill, 11 Jan*)

LEADER: God of love, if it were easy to love we would not be praying to you this day. Yet we desire to love all, even when it is difficult. We need you to strengthen us so that our love is genuine, and not a mask that we conveniently put on and take off.

ALL: **Lead us to share each other’s burdens, to know each other better, to care more deeply and to live sincerely as one family made through Jesus your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn #100** (red, vs. 3-4 read)

**“God, Whose Love Is Reigning O’er Us”**

God, whose love is reigning o’er us, source of all, the ending true;  
hear the universal chorus raised in joyful praise to you:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.

2. Word of God from nature bringing spring-time green and autumn gold;  
mountain streams like children singing, ocean waves like thunder bold:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation’s tale is told.

3. Holy God of ancient glory, choosing man and woman, too;  
Abr’am’s faith and Sarah’s story formed a people bound to you.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.

4. Covenant, new again in Jesus, Star-child born to set us free;  
sent to heal us, sent to teach us how love’s children we might be.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, our Savior he!

5. Lift we then our human voices in the songs that faith would bring;  
live we then in human choices lives that, like our music, sing:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

WORDS: William Boyd Grove, 1980; © 1980 William Boyd Grove

MUSIC: John Goss, 1869

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

PASTOR: Who are we, to offer praise to you, God, when we often call on your name in vain? Although we lack the words to describe our gratitude for all that you have given us, we know that it is good to praise you. So, we offer our thanks to you now, both silently and aloud.

(share joys and offer thanks)

Who are we, to offer our concerns for others, when what we think they need is not what they truly need, and our inability to provide comfort and peace scares us? Although we may not know what to pray, we offer our prayers of concern to you, knowing that the Spirit will intercede on our behalf.

(share intercessory prayers)

Who are we, to offer prayers to you, God? We are your children. Your beloved. So, with confidence, we share with you our prayers for ourselves and our ministries, knowing that you will cherish our prayers as precious offerings.

(share prayers of supplication)

Who are you, God, to hear and receive these prayers? You are the great I AM. You have journeyed with our ancestors as you continue to journey with us. You are who you will be, our creator, redeemer and sustainer always. Amen.

Now, let us wrap up these prayers with 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 #431 (9 red)

### “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.  
Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

WORDS and MUSIC: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson Harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

© renewed 1983 assigned to Jan-Lee Music

## Special Music (11)

*Julie Clopper-Smith*

## God's Word Proclaimed

Romans 12:1-2, 9-21

## Sermon

“God Is in the Ordinary”

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 God our thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PASTOR: Holy are you, God, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection, you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, 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." And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

ALL: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

PASTOR: 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. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation**

PASTOR: For all the ways we hold fast to what is convenient, comfortable or agreeable (pause) instead of what is good.

ALL: **Forgive us, O God.**

PASTOR: For all the ways we love for personal gain and satisfaction (pause) instead of mutuality.

ALL: **Forgive us, O God.**

PASTOR: When we lag in zeal, are poor in spirit and undisciplined in our prayer (pause) instead of being persistent in prayer and hope.

ALL: **Forgive us, O God.**

PASTOR: When we judge those who rejoice and chastise those who weep (pause) instead of showing compassion.

ALL: **Forgive us, O God.**

PASTOR: When we seek vengeance and strife (pause) instead of understanding and love.

ALL: **Forgive us, O God.**

PASTOR: In all we do, let our love be genuine; for if we love, as God has taught us, we will not be overcome by evil, but we will, by the grace of God, overcome evil with good. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

### **Sharing the Body and Blood of Christ**

(Please bring your offering forward as you come to partake in the Holy Communion.)

### **Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self**

PASTOR: Thank you, Creator of the universe, for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, for the people gathered around us today and for the people for whom we prayed and who pray for us. Keep us in love of you and of all that we know or know not.

ALL: **We love, Lord God, because you first loved us. We share because you first blessed us. We pray because you first believed. May what we love, what we share and what we pray for help to build your great commonwealth of love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn #671 (red)**

**“Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”**

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

2. Thanks we give and adoration for thy gospel’s joyful sound.  
May the fruits of thy salvation in our hearts and lives abound;  
ever faithful, ever faithful to the truth may we be found.

WORDS: attr. to John Fawcett, 1773

MUSIC: *The European Magazine and Review*, 1792; harm. from *The Methodist Hymn and Tune Book*, 1889, alt.

**Commissioning and Blessing**

PASTOR: God promises life in all its fullness, not earthly riches. Life is fruitful when lived for others.

ALL: **With mutual affection, we honor one another. With hope and joy, we reach out helping hands.**

PASTOR: May the Holy Spirit light a fire within our heart: a fire that burns hot and bright, but that does not consume; a fire that illumines our path, without scorching the eye. May the Holy Comforter journey with us: helping us to do no harm, do good and stay in love with God. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

**Postlude (9)**

“Make Me a Servant” — arr. Carl Seal

(11)

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” — P. Scholtes

(Parts of this liturgy have been taken from “The Minister’s Annual Manual”, Logos Productions and “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler.)

# Announcements

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## Today, September 3 National Skyscraper Day

- 9:00 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
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZk0aTzVvQzFMOT09>  
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=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZk0aTzVvQzFMOT09>



## Monday, September 4 Labor Day

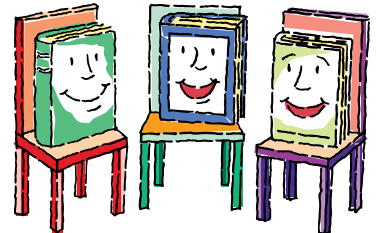
Office is closed.

## Tuesday, September 5 National Be Late for Something 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

## Wednesday, September 6 Read a Book Day

- 1:30 a.m. Book Club *Four Treasures of the Sky* by Jenny Zhang — 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, September 7 National Feel the Love Day

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn  
6:30 p.m. United Women in Faith Salad Supper, Program: Kelly Lauer, Executive Director of the White Cane Foundation, speaker — First U.M. Church, lower-level Fellowship Hall, 2723 N. 50th. Please RSVP to Shirley, 402-464-7304.

## Friday, September 8 National Actor’s Day

- Card shower for Loyal Park
- 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 of playing cards (10-point Pitch)
- 7:30 p.m. Joel Sartore — First Presbyterian Church, 840 S. 17th. National Geographic Explorer, photographer and Lincoln native Joel Sartore will be presenting pictures and stories from his acclaimed National Geographic Photo Ark Project. In 2006, Joel started the National Geographic Photo Ark in an effort to document every species living in human care, to inspire action through education, and help save wildlife by supporting on-the-ground conservation efforts. Tickets: [fpclincoln.org](http://fpclincoln.org), 402-477-6037 \$15 seniors (62 & over), \$20 adult, \$5 student, children 12 & under free

## Saturday, September 9 National Teddy Bear Day

- 9:30 a.m. Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child Project Leader Workshop — Student Center, Capitol City Christian Church, 7800 Holdrege. Use the NW entrance.
- 11:00 a.m. Citizen’s Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

**Next Sunday, September 10**      **National Grandparent's Day**

- 8:30 a.m.** Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service (A.K.T.S.) kick-off — Room 2. For grades pre-K-12.
- 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

**Next 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

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

- 3-6 p.m. Garden Party — Aldersgate Gardens. Ice cream and activities for all ages, live music, learn about recycling, plants and pollinators.

## Prayer List

### Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 3** Don Stone, Jr. (65)
- 5** Lola Jambor
- 6** Aaron & Lynda Nordyke
- 8** Loyal Park (90)  
Joseph & Nosheen Rafique

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

Ron Rockenbach is scheduled for knee surgery 8/25/23

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