

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church



**8:30 a.m.**

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

**January 21, 2024**  
Ecumenical Sunday

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**  
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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.*



January 21, 2024

## Greeting and Announcements (*Joseph*)

### Music for Centering Prayer

“Rock of Ages” — arr. Donna Krieger

### Call to Worship (*Joseph*)

LEADER: We have entered this sanctuary to worship God.

ALL: **But what would God have us to do when worship is over?**

LEADER: Do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with our God.

ALL: **Love neighbors as self and God above all else.**

LEADER: We have entered this sanctuary to worship God —

ALL: **that we may re-enter this world to serve God.**

### Opening Prayer (*Joseph*)

LEADER: Lord Jesus, we are in church today because you have called us, invited us and summoned us here. We are here, not because we searched for you, but rather because you searched for us, found us, claimed us and gave us jobs to do in your kingdom. Sometimes we are amazed by your faith in us. There are times too when we think that we do not have the gifts or the abilities to do what you expect of us.

ALL: **Yet you have called us. Help us to have as much faith in ourselves as you have in us. Give us what we need to do your work. This we ask, for the sake of your kingdom and because we worship today because of you. Amen.**

### Hymn #158 (red)

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

### Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (*John*)

PASTOR: Knowing that whatever our intentions, our actions often cause God grief and bring harm to our neighbor, let us turn to the One who can make our hearts new. (silence for reflection) Gracious and forgiving God, how easily we become distracted by the preoccupations of this world. We know they are only temporary and not deserving of so much of our time and energy.

ALL: **Loving God, we confess to you that we have been careless in our care for creation and for one another. Forgive us our knack of saying yes but acing no. Fill us with your Spirit who would enable us to do your calling, even when it means letting go of what seemingly promises security.**

PASTOR: God hears our prayers and for Jesus’ sake, forgives us where we have missed the mark. May God grant us peace, cleanse our hearts and move us to live in love for others. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: You are free, Lord: free from the constraints of human existence, outside the limitations of time and space; free to be here with us now, in our worship and fellowship; and free to be with us always; for in your freedom you have bound yourself to us with a promise: “Lo! I am with you always even to the very end of time.” We pray, Lord, for those who need to feel you close, who need the assurance of your love, the encouragement of your Spirit. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against, who are mocked because of their faith or race or color. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are imprisoned, who are tortured, who are exiled, because they have

fought, struggled and spoken out for the rights of their people. For this we say,

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are destitute, who are hungry, who are refugees, because of the selfishness and apathy of the world. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are filled with guilt, who are broken-hearted, who are perplexed, because a relationship has gone wrong. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are feeling fed up, who are in discomfort, who are afraid, because they are ill in body, mind or spirit. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are numbed, who are angry, who are desolate, because they have been bereaved. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those caught up in war and violence and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray at this time of financial turmoil, for those who have lost jobs, those who struggle to pay bills and those who have the power to affect positive change. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who love the earth and give voice to its needs, its wounds, its potential, that we might be drawn into a deeper communion with God's creation of which we are but a part. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: What would you like to lift up in prayer? (pause)

For all of these and our other prayers, we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: 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 #2130 (black)

“The Summons”

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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Mark 1:14-20

Sermon (*John*)

“They Left and Followed Him”

Offertory (*John*)

(When God gives you more than you need, ask yourself: Why?)

When our riches increase, we are tempted to put our trust and confidence in them. But riches are not meant to satisfy us. They are placed in our hands that we might accomplish some good purpose. Giving through the church grants us that opportunity.

“Jesus Calls Us” — arr. Lani Smith

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.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving (*John*)

PASTOR: All that we are, all that we ever hope to be, all come as a gift from you, all-giving God. So, help us now in our giving to be freed by that reminder.

ALL: **Receive these offerings from who we are and what we have and for what we hope, and use them in your gracious service for turning this world upon your axis of providence. This we pray, these we give, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

### Hymn #593 (red)

**“Here I Am, Lord”**

### Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Who chose whom? Did Moses choose God or God choose Moses? Or both?

ALL: **It is a privilege to be chosen by God. Otherwise, who was Moses and who was Jonah?**

PASTOR: Did Jesus choose his disciples or they choose him or both?

ALL: **We are disciples of Jesus Christ. He called us and we have said yes to his call. We will trust in God at all times. We will speak God’s truth in love.**

PASTOR: Our job is to fish; God’s job is to clean.

ALL: **We rise above our shortcomings in the strength Christ gives. We bless his holy name.**

PASTOR: Brothers and sisters, go as people blessed to bless others. You have been commissioned as citizens of God’s realm to spread it. 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

**“Rock of My Salvation” — arr. Carl Seal**

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

# Announcements

## Today, January 21

### Ecumenical Sunday

- 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 “Loaves & Fishes” — Room 2
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* “I Have Called You by Name” — Worship Center
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 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>



## Monday, January 22

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

## Tuesday, January 23

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 1:30 p.m. Caregiver Education Group “Scams & Financial Exploitations” — 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

## Wednesday, January 24

- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

## Thursday, January 25

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

## Friday, January 26

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

## Saturday, January 27

- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Fellowship Hall
- 3:00 p.m. India Association of Lincoln — Sunshine Room

## Next Sunday, January 28

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Worship Center and online
- 9:45 a.m. Aldersgate Kids Take on Service — 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
- 2:00 p.m. Parkinson’s Support Group — Sheridan Lutheran Church

## Next Monday, January 29

- 7:00 p.m. Learning Key Result Team — Zoom

## Tuesday, January 30

- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation — South Gate

**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](http://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 — Aldersgate

**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

**Prayer List**

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 21 Sandy Gores
- 22 Penny Siebe (70)
- 23 Tony Anton
- 25 Emily Atkinson Judy Faubel
- 26 Roni & William Vlasnik



Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley	Judy Faubel	Shirley Hanley
Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston	Laura Marshall
Lynda Nordyke	Zach Steward	Roxanne & Richard Swyers
Jacob	John	

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