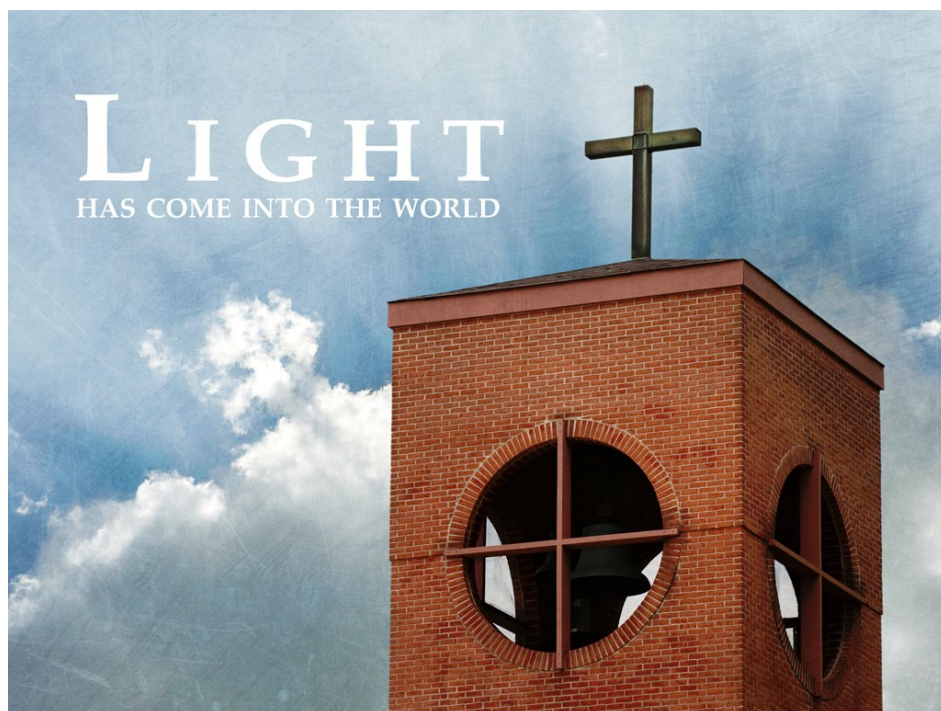


# Aldersgate United Methodist Church



## 8:30 a.m.

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

## 11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Stacey Lienemann  
Lector: Jan Malone

**March 10, 2024**  
Third Sunday in Lent

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](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.*



March 10, 2024

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

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

“When Morning Gilds the Skies” — arr. Cindy Barry  
“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” — K. Thomerson

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

LEADER: Light has entered our world; rejoice! Light is God’s gift to each and to all together.

ALL: **Give thanks to God for days of watchful care. The steadfast love of God endures forever.**

LEADER: Let those whom God has redeemed rejoice! Let them tell the world of God’s good news!

ALL: **We will thank God for wonderful works. We will rejoice in God’s love for all humankind.**

LEADER: By God’s word, we are delivered from destruction. By God’s mercy, we are healed and made whole.

ALL: **Our voices will join in songs of joy. Our lives will offer sacrifices of thanksgiving.**

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

LEADER: God of infinite patience, we call on you once more, knowing that you have every reason to question our coming together. We have worshipped without expectation. We have gathered without diligent preparation, as if meeting you laid no requirements on us. Amid the complexities of our lives, we have forgotten to set aside times to be still before you.

ALL: **Sometimes we feel as if we are bitten by snakes all week long, so we assemble here for some relief and healing. O God, will you meet us as we are? Amen.**

**Hymn #108** (red)

“God Hath Spoken by the Prophets”

**Confession Meditation** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Spend some quiet time reading the images on the screen and considering your own sinfulness as soft music is played in the background.

**Assurance of Pardon** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: “For I will forgive their wickedness,” says God, “and will remember their sins no more.” In the name of God, your sins are forgiven.

ALL: **Amen. In the name of God your sins are forgiven.**

PASTOR: Amen.

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

PASTOR: Merciful God, in your compassion for your people we know that there is no pain that you have not felt, no grief or longing that we cannot share with you. With the confidence of your solidarity, we pray to you for all who through sickness have long days and lonely nights, the unmet dreams, the cries in the wilderness and the inconsolable pain. Through your mercy may they experience relief from their suffering. Loving God,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Liberating God, shatter the doors of those who are in prison of addiction, financial ruin, abusive relationships and depression. Remind us to constantly look up to you for our salvation. Loving God,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Lord God, we pray for those who are and who feel alone. God, remind them of your presence. And to those who are and who feel broken, remind them of all that you have made whole. Loving God,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

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

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Creator God, we pray for those who are on our church's prayer list and those who have personally asked us for prayers. We also pray for the abundance of joy and many more healthy years to come for those who celebrate their birthday or wedding anniversary today or in the week to come. Loving God,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Help us, God, to hold on to our faith in you. Hear these and all our prayers, in Jesus' name, we pray, using the words that he taught:

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 #206 (red, 8:30)

Special Music (11)

**"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

"Children of the Light" — *Aldersgate Choir*

Word of God Proclaimed (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Jan*)  
(8:30 *John, 11 Jan*)

Numbers 21:4-9

John 3:14-21

LEADER: The second reading is from the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 14-21. We will read it responsively with three readers. When Nicodemus went to Jesus secretly at night, Jesus, referring to Numbers 21:4-9, said to him,

READER 1: And just as Moses

Arranged by Sunil Chandy. [engageworship.org/BibleNoise](http://engageworship.org/BibleNoise)

ALL: **lifted up**

READER 2: the serpent in the wilderness,

READER 3: so must the Son of Man be

ALL: **lifted up,**

READER 1: that whoever believes in him

ALL: **may have eternal life.**

READER 2: For God

READER 3: so loved the world

READER 1: that he gave his only Son,

READER 2: so that everyone who believes in him

READER 3: may not perish

ALL: **but may have eternal life.**

READER 1: Indeed, God did not send the Son

READER 2: into the world to condemn the world,

READER 3: but in order that the world might be saved

ALL: **through him.**

READER 1: Those who believe in him

READER 2: are not condemned;

READER 3: but those who do not believe

READER 2: are condemned already,

READER 3: because they have not believed

READER 1: in the name of the only Son of God.

READER 3: And this is the judgment, that

ALL: **the light**

READER 2: has come into the world,

READER 3: and people loved darkness rather than

ALL: **light**

READER 1: because their deeds were evil.

READER 2: For all who do evil hate

ALL: **the light**  
READER 3: and do not come to  
ALL: **the light,**  
READER 1: so that their deeds may not be exposed.  
READER 2: But those who do what is true come to  
ALL: **the light,**  
READER 3: so that it may be clearly seen  
ALL: **that their deeds have been done in God.**  
LEADER: This is the word of God for the people of God.  
ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon** (8:30 *John*)  
(11 *Joseph*)

“The Light Has Come into the World”  
“Re-Birth”

**Offertory Invitation** (*John*)

PASTOR: In joyous thanksgiving, we offer sacrifices of time and resources to announce God’s healing grace to the world. It is our privilege to participate in God’s wonderful works to humankind, to share the light of God with those who are still living in darkness.

(8:30)  
(11)

“I Will Sing of My Redeemer” — arr. Lisa Hoekstra  
“O How He Loves You and Me” — K. Kaiser

**Doxology** (to the tune of #95)

**“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: For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted — for shelter, food and meaningful tasks to do; for your steadfast love that awakens us and raises us from our sinful ways; for your word that guides and heals us — we give you thanks, gracious God.

ALL: **As we invest a part of all you entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.**

**Hymn #292** (red)

**“What Wondrous Love Is This”**

**Commissioning and Blessing** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: God sent Jesus that the world may believe. God sends us into the world to share that good news.

ALL: **In Christ, we are not condemned to perish. Christ came to offer us abundant life.**

PASTOR: Let everyone see the light you have received. Live openly as people enjoying the love of God.

ALL: **Let those whom God has redeemed say so. Let us give thanks for God’s steadfast love.**

PASTOR: We are alive together in Christ Jesus. God offers to all the gift of eternal life, beginning now.

ALL: **By grace, we have been saved through faith. We will live in the light and thus share good news.**

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** (8:30)  
(11)

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” — arr. Mark Hayes  
“Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy” — arr. L. Shackley

(Parts of this liturgy have been taken and adapted from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler )

## Prayer List



### Birthdays This Week

- 13 Joseph Rafique  
14 Molly & Seth Lienemann  
16 Richard & Roxanne Swyers

Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley	Judy Faubel	Dennis Frederick
Shirley Hanley	Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston
Laura Marshall	Lynda Nordyke	Frankey Ostlund
Zach Steward	Roxanne & Richard Swyers	Jacob
John	Larry, Sandy Gores' dad	

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

The family of Gordon Ostlund who died 3/8/24

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 anticipating coming home from his deployment in Africa.

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

## Announcements

### Today, March 10

### UMCOR 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. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. A.K.T.S. (Aldersgate Kids Take on Service) The Easter Crafts with Katie Softley — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Laity Summit Watch Party — Fellowship Hall  
Welcome with Bishop Wilson
- 2:00 p.m. One-Board Governance
- 3:15 p.m. break
- 3:30 p.m. Stewardship for the Local Church
- 4:45 p.m. Communion
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=clRSQUlOZjYrQjIyZk0aTzVvQzFMQT09>  
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/u/kcFkfw3laD>



### Monday, March 11

- 1:30 p.m. United Women of Faith "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" — Room 4  
6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, March 12**

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 9:30 – 4 A.R.M.S. (Retired Ministers and Spouses) Learning Event — Worship Center
- 6:00 p.m. Dance Class — Sunshine Room #7c
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class — Church Office
- 6:30 p.m. Dementia Support Group — The Knolls
- 7:00 p.m. Finance — Room 4

**Wednesday, March 13**

- 10:00 a.m. Marketing — Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women's Connection — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

**Thursday, March 14**

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

**Friday, March 15**

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

**Saturday, March 16**

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast "Aldersgate Gardens as Arboretum" with Steve Schafer — Room 4

**Next Sunday, March 17** St. Patrick's Day

- 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) Easter food with Julie Huston — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

**Sunday, March 17 or Saturday, March 23**

- 2-5 p.m. Celebrate Easter 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St., Murdock. In the barn: play with baby animals, see a real crown of thorns, pound nails into a cross. Outside: travel through the Homestead to see lots of stable animals, view a field of crosses.

**Next Monday, March 18**

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

**Tuesday, March 19**

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb

**Wednesday, March 20** Spring Begins

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

**Thursday, March 21**

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

**Sunday, March 24** Palm Sunday

- 12:15 p.m. Family Ministry Kick-off — Sunshine Room. Preschool kids through high school with their parents/grandparents invited for pizza, cookie decorating and games.

**Tuesday, March 26** Holy Week

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiving Education Group — Fellowship Hall. "Aging in Place" by AARP
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class — South Gate, U.M. Church
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry "Water in Nebraska" with Ann Briggs, Nebraska Water Center, UNL

**Thursday, March 28** Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service — Worship Center and online