

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**March 3, 2024**  
Third Sunday in Lent

**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: Stacey Lienemann

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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**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.*



March 3, 2024

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

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

“The Old Rugged Cross” — arr. Brad Nix  
“Let Us Break Bread Together” — spiritual

**Call to Worship** (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*) adapted from Psalm 19

LEADER: All creation proclaims God’s glory and handiwork.

ALL: **So let us lend our voices and spirits to the praise of God.**

LEADER: Let the words of our mouth and the meditation of our hearts,

ALL: **be acceptable to you, O God, our rock and our redeemer.**

**Opening Prayer** (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Stacey*)

LEADER: Lord Jesus, come to our church this day. If the front door is locked, kick it open.

ALL: **If we are too cold or aloof, set us on fire. If our preacher preaches himself, shut him up. If we talk about everything except what is important, force us to confront the truth. If we become so concerned about the mere survival of our lives at the expense of the mission of our church, take it from us and tear it down. If we hunker down behind our sacred walls, push down the walls and drive us into a world where you are Lord of all.**

LEADER: You are Lord of all, including the church. We are only the workers in your vineyard. Help us never to forget that truth, even when it hurts. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

**Hymn #132** (red)

**“All My Hope Is Firmly Grounded”**

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

PASTOR: God our Creator and Redeemer, you sent your Son Jesus to live with us and die on the cross to save the whole world. This same Jesus, you raised from the dead and brought again on high. We thank you that Jesus has gone to you and sends us the Holy Spirit. We remember with thanksgiving our baptism into Jesus’ death and resurrection. We give you thanks for the power of your love that heals and frees us. We are grateful for your church, filled with the fullness of Jesus Christ. Let all the people say:

ALL: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

PASTOR: As Jesus protested the abuse of your laws, may we also question practices, customs and traditions that are not in line with your teachings and covenant. (pause) Lord, in your love,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We thank you, God, for Jesus of Nazareth, who loved you, your dream, and all your people fiercely. As Jesus wept for his friends, may we also weep with those who cry out in grief for those we name to you now. (pause) Lord, in your love,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We are mindful, O God, of the needs of your people. Comfort the sick and the lonely. Help all travelers and strangers; lead us to welcome them. Care for the needy and the homeless, give us generous hearts toward them. Lord, in your love,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We thank you, God, for your creation which sparks the imagination and draws our attention to its creator, your laws that govern the creation and show us the path of right living, your truth and grace that revive our hope and your love that spurs us to love. We thank you for the miracles in our daily lives that renew our spirits and remind us of your steadfast goodness. (pause) Lord, in your love,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We thank you, O God, for the bounty of the earth, for showers of blessing and the sunshine of your joy, for the shade of trees and the smell of growing things, for the comfort of dogs and cats who love us, for the cattle and sheep, secure on the hillside, for noble beasts, at risk in forests and deserts. Teach us to protect all your creatures and their homes. Help us to keep the earth safe and pleasing for ourselves and generations yet unborn. Lord, in your love,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Thanking you, God, for our well-being, in your love, we ask you to bless those who are on our church's or on our personal prayer list, and who celebrate their birthday or wedding anniversary today or in the week to come. (pause) Lord, in your love,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We thank you, God, for this Lenten journey, may we never forget who we journey and what we are journeying toward as we 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 #2164** (black, 8:30)  
**Special Music** (11)

**"Sanctuary"**  
"How Beautiful" — *Aldersgate Choir*

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

John 2:13-22

**Sermon** (*Joseph*)

"About that Anger"

**Sacrament of Holy Communion** (*John*)

PASTOR: The Lord is 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: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, your love remained steadfast. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast, that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy, we may come to the fullness of grace that you have prepared for those who love you. Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem the world. He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in our likeness. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. He took upon himself our sin and death and offered himself, a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.

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 holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: The bread of heaven transforms a sinner into a saint. Receive the bread, eat and be transformed.

ALL: **We receive this gift knowing that we are only sanctified by God's grace.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven strengthens us before sending us into the world. Pass on the gift with joy to all near and far.

ALL: **We are thankful to God for the privilege of being chosen and sent. With gratefulness we will serve and witness.**

PASTOR: The bread of heaven is holy and pure. Our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.

ALL: **I do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. I am not worthy that you should receive me, but give your word and I shall be healed, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.**

PASTOR: The One who raised Jesus from the dead offers us new life today. Our sins are forgiven. Our lives are cleansed. Our inner nature is being renewed. God does not forsake us. Meet the world with the assurance that you are loved, valued and empowered as an ambassador of God's eternal realm. Amen.

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

#### **Prayer of Dedication of Gifts and Self** (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Thank you, Lord God, for not only feeding me with the body and blood of your Son, but also reminding me that I am part of a community of people who have died and risen together with Christ and my core identity consists in this spiritual union with Christ. And that Christ's story is not just his story but also my story and the story of every human being.

ALL: **I commit myself anew to living as you command. Guide, protect and help me in living out my intentions, and receive, bless and use these, my gifts as a statement of my sincerity. In Jesus' name, your ultimate sign of love, I ask. Amen.**

PASTOR: Thank you, Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of the natural world. May we respect the life of all you have made. May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need, and may we use our strength to help those who need us.

ALL: **We bring our offerings, O God, to support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace your word in our everyday living. Amen.**

#### **Hymn #382** (red)

#### **"Have Thine Own Way, Lord"**

#### **Commissioning and Blessing** (*John*)

PASTOR: Go into the world ready to be kind when others are unkind, and to be passionate when others are complacent. Be fearless, for the grace of God, the love of Jesus, and the abiding friendship of the Holy Spirit go with you, now and always. 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)

"You Are My All in All" — arr. Mark Hayes  
"Lift High the Cross" — S.H. Nicholson

## Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

5 John Goldrich

7 Joe Gores

David & Julie Huston



Nadyne Bauer has had cataract surgery

Dick Easley

Shirley Hanley

Laura Marshall

Zach Steward

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 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

Judy Faubel

Keller Hustad

Lynda Nordyke

Roxanne & Richard Swyers

Larry, Sandy Gores' dad

Dennis Frederick

Dallas Huston

Frankey Ostlund

Jacob

## Announcements

### Today, March 3

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 Story with Tom & Char Haggar — Room 2

11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room

1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjIyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>

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>

4:00 p.m. Lincoln Organ Showcase with Paul Tegels — St. Pat's Catholic Church, 6111 Morrill Ave.



### Tuesday, March 5

9:00 a.m. Artisans

11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.

6:00 p.m. Dance Class — Sunshine Room #7c

**Wednesday, March 6**

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

**Thursday, March 7**

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

**Friday, March 8**

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling (3 cheese tortellini with pasta sauce) — Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and enjoy the fellowship of playing cards, usually 10-Point Pitch.

**Saturday, March 9**

- 11:00 a.m. Citizen's Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

**Next Sunday, March 10** UMCOR Sunday

- 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 Crafts with Katie Softley — Room 2
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30 p.m. Laity Summit Watch Party — Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

**Next 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
- 7:00 p.m. Trustees — Room 4

**Tuesday, March 12**

- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class — Church Office

**Saturday, March 16**

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

**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.

**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