

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan & Kara Steward
Greeter/Usher: Doug & Reba Wysocki
Lector: Carol Clymer

September 8, 2024
Reception of New Members

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dick Easley
Lector: Jim Miller

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

**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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Joseph Rafique, Pastor
402-499-7101 (cell)
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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.*



September 8, 2024

Greeting and Announcements (8:30 , 11 Jim)

LEADER: This is the day that the Lord has made.

ALL: **Let us be glad and rejoice in it.** (Psalm 118:24)

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

“Jesus” — arr. Jim Brickman

“Open Our Eyes/Be Thou My Vision” — arr. M. Hayes

Call to Worship (8:30 , 11 Jim)

LEADER: We come into the temple of God knowing that not only this sanctuary but we too are temples of God.

ALL: **We cannot claim our world; it is a trust from God.**

LEADER: Our lives, our health, our length of days call forth our stewardship.

ALL: **We are managers, not owners, who are accountable to God.**

LEADER: We have come to seek further instructions from God.

ALL: **Help us, O God, and teach us your ways and give us strength and courage to live in them.**

Opening Prayer (8:30 , 11 Jim)

LEADER: Send your Holy Spirit on this gathering of seeking people, O God our Creator and Provider. Open our hearts to receive your gifts and instruction. Open our minds to think new thoughts. Open our hands in generous sharing. Open our lips to declare your praise. Keep us from pious pretension, that we may approach you with genuine yearning to please you, not to impress others.

ALL: **We hear you calling us: now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation. Here we are, God. We seek your healing touch. Amen.**

Hymn #347 (red)

“Spirit Song”

Holy Baptism (8:30 Joseph)

Timothy Isaiah Liem

PASTOR: Brothers and sisters in Christ: through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ’s holy church. We are incorporated into God’s mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God’s gift, offered to us without price. Who is to be baptized?

PARENTS: **We present Timothy Isaiah for baptism.**

PASTOR: On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

PARENTS: **I do.**

PASTOR: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever form they present themselves?

PARENTS: **I do.**

PASTOR: Do you confess Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations and races?

PARENTS: **I do.**

PASTOR: Will you nurture this child in Christ’s holy church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God’s grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

PARENTS: **I will.**

PASTOR: (to the congregation) Do you, as Christ’s body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

ALL: **We do.**

PASTOR: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Timothy Isaiah now before you in your care?

ALL: **With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Timothy with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

PASTOR: Let us join in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

ALL: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

ALL: **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

PASTOR: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit and in other truths of our faith?

ALL: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.**

PASTOR: The Lord is with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

PASTOR: Eternal God, when nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah, you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

ALL: **Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.**

PASTOR: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

ALL: **Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.**

PASTOR: Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and him who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory.

ALL: **All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen.**

PASTOR: Timothy, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. Amen. Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ. Members of the household of God, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope and perfect him in love.

ALL: **We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

PASTOR: The God of grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.

(We welcome Timothy with applause.)

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

PASTOR: O God, when Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that we would not be left orphaned. Give us grace to know your presence when we are troubled and afraid.

Spirit of truth and life, we pray for all baptized Christians here and the world over that they may continue to experience your presence in their life and be your true witnesses in the world.

For this we say,

ALL: **loving God, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Compassionate God, we pray for people living in oppression, displacement and violence espe-

cially people in refugee camps, in Palestine, Israel and Ukraine. For this we say,

ALL: **loving God, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God of freedom, we pray for those who struggle with addiction, with loneliness and with finding a decent job. For this we say,

ALL: **loving God, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for relief for all those who face health issues, relationship issues and are under heavy financial burden. For this we say,

ALL: **loving God, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: God of all, may your people learn to respect the beliefs, opinions and traditions of others and build bonds of common understanding that will bridge the divide of hatred. For this we say,

ALL: **loving God, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to add? (pause) For these needs of ours, we say:

ALL: **loving God, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Spirit of the living God, we invite you to fill our souls with your breath, life and faith. Hoping against all hope may we lay defeat aside. And may all our prayer requests be granted through your loving compassion, as we wrap them in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples:

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 #2171 (black, 8:30, vs. 1, 3-4)
Special Music (11)

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”
“Evidence of Grace” — *Aldersgate Choir*

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

II Corinthians 8:8-15
Matthew 23:1-3, 23-26

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“Tithing”

Offertory Invitation (*Joseph*)

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

In the book of the Prophet Malachi, when people asked God: “How shall we return to you?” God answered: “Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In your tithes and offerings!” God answered. My brothers and sisters, we are children of God, called to share with the world the manifold works of our Creator. Our offerings are one expression of our commitment.

(8:30)

“He Touched Me” — arr. Carol Tornquist

(11)

“Prelude on Brother James’ Air” — arr. S. Wright

Doxology (to the tune of #75, red)

“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. Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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

PASTOR: We give, loving God, because of your generosity to us. We share because this is your will for us. In faithfulness to your call, we seek to manage the resources you provide for the greater for the greater benefit to humankind.

ALL: **May they bring a bit closer an awareness of your intentions for us and your rule among us. We worship and serve you with all we have. Amen.**

Reception of New Members (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Let those who are members of other congregations of the United Methodist or any other church, and who now desire to enter into the fellowship of this congregation, present themselves to be

welcomed. (A representative of the congregation joins the pastor.)

Brothers and sisters, I commend to your love and care (names. . .) whom we this day receive into the fellowship of this congregation. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope and perfect them in love.

ALL: **We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to this congregation of The United Methodist Church. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. With God's help we will so order our lives after the example of Christ that, surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

PASTOR: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you, now and evermore. Amen.

(We welcome these with applause.)

Hymn #2237 (black)

"As a Fire Is Meant for Burning"

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Give us strength, give us power to walk in you forever.

ALL: **Holy Spirit, fill us up.**

PASTOR: Give us strength and courage to be generous as you are generous towards us.

ALL: **Holy Spirit, fill us up.**

PASTOR: Bless us as you send us out to live for you, O God, our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer and Holy Spirit our Sustainer. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

(Thank you to those who have participated in today's worship.

You are invited to stay and listen to the Postlude or leave as you wish.

Please join us for a fried chicken potluck following the 11:00 service today.)

Postlude (8:30)

(11)

"He Has Made Me Glad" with "This Is the Day — arr. Mark Hayes

"In Christ There Is No East or West" — arr. D. Wood

Announcements

Today, September 8

National Grandparents Day

- 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
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* season 3, episode 5 “Clean, part 2” — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1. Team taught by Tom Haggar and Harry Kellenbarger
- 9:45 a.m. Children’s Sunday School — Room 2. Taught by Char Haggar
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up -- Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Fried Chicken Potluck — Sunshine Room

Monday, September 9

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith “Susanna Wesley” with Kendra Hartwig — Room 4
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Sunshine Room
- 6:30 p.m. Dementia Support Group — The Knolls
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=81351769344>



Tuesday, September 10

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee — Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=81351769344>



Wednesday, September 11

- 10:00 a.m. A.R.M.S. (Retired U.M. Ministers & Spouses) — Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women’s Connection — Sunshine Room
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge to Better Living Informational Session — 4230 Pioneer Woods Dr. B. RSVP to Kaye@BridgetoBetterLiving.com
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, September 12

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

Friday, September 13

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 1:00 p.m. Conference United Women in Faith Annual Meeting (District Officer Training and Workshops) — York
- 6:00 p.m. Conference United Women in Faith Mission Banquet — York
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling

Saturday, September 14

- 8:00 a.m. Great Plains United Women in Faith Annual Meeting — York
- 11:00 a.m. Citizen’s Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, September 15

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* season 3, episode 5 “Clean, part 2” — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1. Team taught by Tom Haggar and Harry Kellenbarger
- 9:45 a.m. Children’s Sunday School — Room 2. Taught by Char Haggar
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Next Monday, September 16

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

Tuesday, September 17

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Sign for Home* by Blair Fell — Room 4

Wednesday, September 18

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, September 19

- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, September 21

Huskers Helping the Homeless

- 8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast with Andrew Smith talking about his military experience — Room 4

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 8 | Stephanie Liem | Loyal Park | Joseph & Nosheen Rafique |
| 9 | Suzy Campbell | | |
| 10 | Justin Lanum | | |
| 12 | Char Haggar | | |
| 14 | Alan Taylor (21) | | |

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Dick Easley | Judy Faubel | Dennis Frederick |
| Shirley Hanley | Keller Hustad | Dallas Huston |
| David Huston | Laura Marshall | Lynda Nordyke |
| Robyn Rocklein | Zach Steward | Jacob |
| Roxie & Richard Swyers | John | Jason Byrd, Angela Huff & Joshua |

Skip, Katrena Anton’s friend with colon cancer

Nadyne Bauer is rehabbing at Tabitha

Hayley Jambor’s mother who has a brain tumor

Iva Maxey, Reba Wysocki’s sister, who is undergoing dialysis treatments

Ava Miles, Phyllis Nelson’s niece, was diagnosed with gastroparesis.

Jennifer Miles, Phyllis Nelson’s niece

Isaiah Pierce, Karen Pierce’s grandson who was born 12/13/22 with heart issues

Alex Ronne, Pat Ruth’s cousin, a 7-year-old girl living in Colorado diagnosed with MLD, a rare, incurable, genetic disease.

Ross Teske and his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain

David and his family, Joe Gore’s prior co-worker who are experiencing some extremely hard times and need prayers for strength and guidance.

Larry Walsh, Sandy Gores’ dad

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

