

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**November 17, 2024**

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**8:30 a.m.**

With Pastor John Goldrich serving  
Newman U.M. Church  
Videographer: Nancy Taylor  
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward  
Greeter/Usher: Bill & Phyllis Nelson

**11:00 a.m. Service**

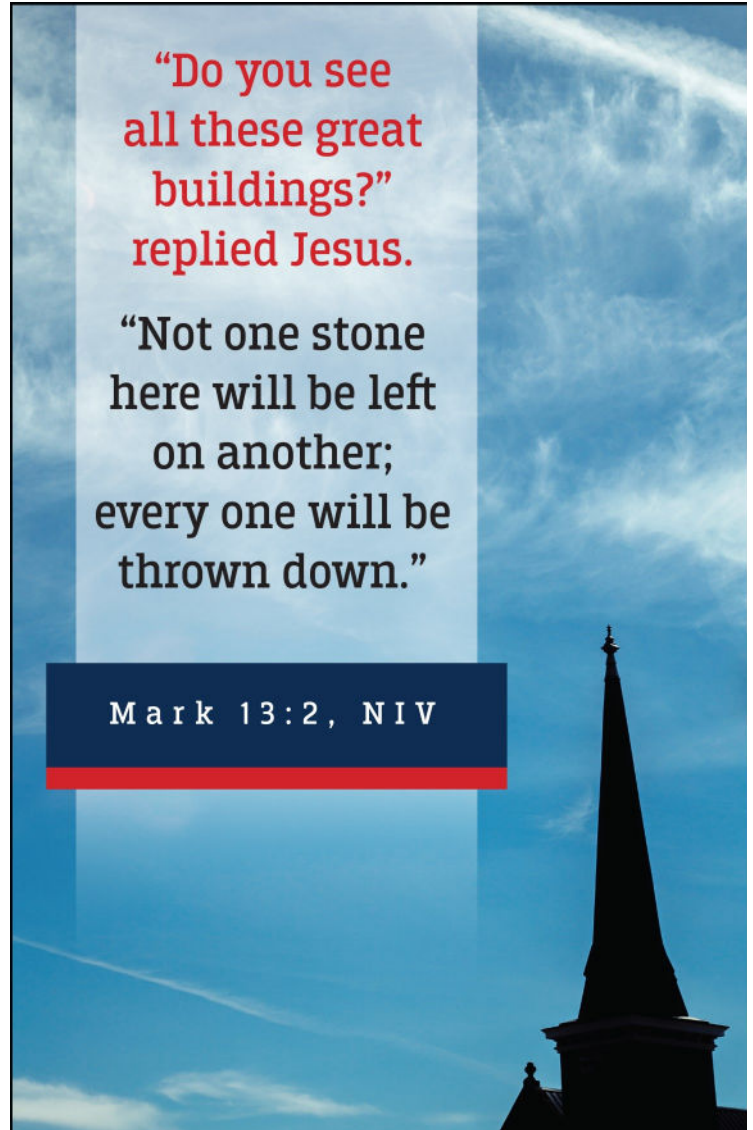
Greeter/Usher: Dick Easley  
Lector: Rod Moore

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

**“Do you see  
all these great  
buildings?”  
replied Jesus.**

**“Not one stone  
here will be left  
on another;  
every one will be  
thrown down.”**

**Mark 13:2, NIV**



**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)  
[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.*



November 17, 2024

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

**Opening Truth** (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Rod*)

LEADER: Take heed, watch and pray;

ALL: **for you know not the time.**

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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” — arr. Marianne Kim

“Sweet Hour of Prayer” — arr. G. Young

**Call to Worship** (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Rod*) (based on I Samuel 1:4-20)

LEADER: Come, let us present ourselves before our God.

Bring all your troubles and anxiety to God in prayer.

ALL: **Surely God knows our thoughts and hears our prayers.  
We find strength for living as we praise God.**

LEADER: Lay down your arrogance and false pride. Admit your needs as you seek God’s favor.

ALL: **We pour out our souls before the living God.  
We do not withhold from God our misery and distress.**

LEADER: God grants our petitions and gives us peace. The counsel of our God gladdens our hearts.

ALL: **In God’s presence there is fullness of joy.  
As we meet together, we are encouraged and comforted.**

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

LEADER: God, source of all wisdom, who in Jesus Christ offers to teach us the way of love, we have asked for signals, and signs of your presence and your leading but have often been led astray by our own desires and interpretations. Testify to us now that we may hear your counsel above the clamor of other voices and hearing, respond as you intend.

ALL: **Give confidence to all who enter this sanctuary, Lord, that our faith may grow, our love expand, and our hope find fulfillment. Show us the path of life and grant us courage to walk in your ways with our eyes fixed on you. In Jesus’ name we ask. Amen.**

**Hymn #140** (red)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

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

PASTOR: Let us approach our God in all truth, confessing the deeds and distractions that have kept us from honoring God and have divided us from other human beings. We cannot undo all the wrong we have done, but we can be cleansed from an evil conscience to live a more wholesome and joyous life.

Mighty God, we confess the arrogance of our doubts and the falsehood of our denials. We have neglected to pray and have forgotten to give thanks. So, we ask:

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

PASTOR: Many activities have become more important to us than gathering for worship. Our busyness crowds out times of private prayer. So, we ask:

ALL: **Christ, have mercy.**

PASTOR: We shake our heads at the evil around us but do little to witness to a better way. Your law is seldom consulted, and your pathways of self-sacrificing love rarely explored. So, we ask:

ALL: **Lord, have mercy.**

PASTOR: May our merciful God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: O God, through Jesus, you have 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 that all Christians here and the world over 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 especially people in refugee camps, in Palestine, Lebanon, Israel and in 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, 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 #529** (red, 8:30)

**"How Firm a Foundation"**

**Special Music** (11)

"I Bring a Heart of Thanks" — *Aldersgate Choir*

**Hannah's Story** (8:30 *John*, 11 *Rod*)

I Samuel 1:1-20

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Hannah was barren. And in the time and the place that Hannah lived, to be barren was to be cursed. But things are not always what they look like. Situations are not always what they seem. And God has a way of taking one thing and turning it into something completely different.

Hannah was married to Elkanah – a man of means who could afford a second wife – Peninnah. And Peninnah, as it happens, was not barren at all. She had a brood of children, which she stood before Hannah, at every opportunity, to make her curse even worse.

Elkanah was a good man. He saw, he understood, he longed to ease Hannah's pain. So when the family trooped from their home in Ramah to the holy place at Shiloh each year, and when they sat down to eat a portion of the meat that had been offered as a sacrifice to God, Elkanah always made sure that Hannah got a double helping of that meat – a special treat and, surely, the first recorded example of comfort eating. In spite of all her children, however (and as a powerful argument for monogamy!), Peninnah was jealous of this simple act of kindness. And she did all she could to make that a curse, as well.

"It is God who has closed your womb," she would tell Hannah, there, in the presence of God himself, in his own holy place. And she would do this, not once, not twice, but again and again and again, right up to the time of the feast. And poor Hannah would be so upset that she could not enjoy the treat her husband had planned for her. In fact, she could not eat at all. "Eat, Hannah, eat!" Elkanah would say. He meant well, but (being a man!) he ended up saying all the things a husband should never say to his wife when she is so unhappy she can't eat. "Why are you crying? Why are you so upset? You may not have any children – but you have me!"

One year, Hannah was so upset that she left the table altogether. She went to the door of the holy place,

where Eli the priest was sitting. And there, through her tears, she offered up a prayer to God. “Look at me, Lord, please! See my misery. Remember my condition. And give me a son, I pray. For if you do, then I will give him back to you, and dedicate him as your servant for all the days of his life.”

These words were hard words. So hard that she could not speak them out loud. Hannah’s lips moved, her tears flowed, and the old priest Eli (another man!) assumed that she was drunk. “Sober up, woman!” he said. “This is neither the time nor the place. Take your bottle and go home!” Hannah could not believe this. All she wanted was help, and here was another curse.

“Drunk?” she cried. “Is that what you think? I’m not drunk! In fact, I can hardly eat or drink a thing! I’m here to pray – that’s all – to pour out my grief and my troubles before the Lord.”

“I see,” said Eli, sorry not only for her sadness but for his mistake as well. “Then go in peace. And may the God of Israel give you what you asked for.” It was a blessing. A blessing, at last. Hard won, to be sure. But a blessing and not a curse.

So Hannah went. And Hannah had something to eat. And when she saw her husband, she smiled. And when they returned to Ramah, she lay with him and conceived and gave birth to a son and called him Samuel – a name which means “God heard me”.

And when Samuel was old enough, she took him back to Shiloh, back to the old priest Eli. And though it sounds like the act of a crazy woman, or a drunk woman, she left her only son there to serve in the holy place. A blessing in return for a blessing. A blessing, and not a curse.

**Word of God Proclaimed** (8:30 *Joseph*)

Mark 13:1-8

**Sermon** (*Joseph*)

“The Bedrock of Faith”

**Offertory Invitation** (*John*)

We are encouraged to give as God has blessed us, bringing our offerings, not to win God’s favor but to express our thanks, not out of habit but as a caring community that provokes one another to love and good deeds.

(8:30)

“Living for Jesus” — arr. John Turner

(11)

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” — arr. D. Wood

**Doxology** (to the tune of #75)

**“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: Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity to pray together and to share our time, talents, witness and treasure with all those in need. Thank you God, for your generosity in giving us all that we need. In thanks for the perfect offering of Jesus Christ, we bring ourselves as our gifts.

ALL: **Show us how to combine our efforts to build wholesome relationships, extend your church, and minister in your name both here and throughout the world. In the name of Jesus, we ask. Amen.**

**Celebrate Aldersgate**

*Lia Havlena*

**Hymn #512** (red)

**“Stand by Me”**

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

PASTOR: Go forth in confidence that God remembers you.  
Go in peace, knowing you will find blessings in abundance.

ALL: **God is with us wherever we go. We seek to recognize the blessings we have ignored.**

PASTOR: Live your lives in a continuing relationship of prayer.  
Listen for the counsel God offers every day.

ALL: **There is a word for us in every situation. God is always ready to guide our decisions.**

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. 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.)

**Postlude (8:30)**  
(11)

“Since I Have Been Redeemed”—arr. Mark Hayes  
“How Firm a Foundation” — arr. R.J. Hughes

# Announcements

## Today, November 17

- 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
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1.
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2.
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 2:00 p.m. Southeast Nebraska District Annual Meeting — Zoom. Clergy and the Lay Member to Annual Conference may vote.
- 3:30 p.m. Green Teams Gathering — First Plymouth Church

## Monday, November 18

- 7:00 p.m. Church Council — Room 4

## Tuesday, November 19

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 6:00 p.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Maid* by Nita Prose — Room 4

## Wednesday, November 20

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- 3:00 p.m. Dementia Support Group — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

## Thursday, November 21

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81939800475?pwd=K1EwbjFqTTZ3OS9rNnBHSC9ubWZyQT09>  
Meeting ID: 819 3980 0475  
Passcode: 832006  
One tap mobile  
+12532158782,,81939800475#,,, \*832006# US (Tacoma)  
Dial by your location  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb0zFweCd1>



## Friday, November 22

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

## Saturday, November 23

- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Fellowship Hall

**Next Sunday, November 24**      **Reign of Christ Sunday**

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — 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 and Sheila Kellenbarger
- 10:40 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship and Baptism — Worship Center
- 2:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support Group — Sheridan Lutheran
- 5-10 p.m. Birthday Party — Sunshine Room

**Next Monday, November 25**

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

**Tuesday, November 26**

- 1:30 p.m. Caregiver Education Group "Planning for the Journey Ahead" — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Room 4

**Wednesday, November 27**

- 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve interactive Service for all ages — Worship Center (opening and closing)

**Saturday, November 30 – Sunday, December 1**

- 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Living Nativity Drive-thru — 3B Homestead, 7603 298th St. Murdock

**Sunday, December 1**      **First Sunday of Advent**

- 12:15 p.m. Hanging of the Greens — Sunshine Room. A family event with soup & sandwiches.

**Tuesday, December 3**

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

## Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

- 18** Alex Emerson
- 21** Rhonda Revelle

- |                        |                |                  |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 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           | Arlene           |

- Nadyne Bauer is rehabbing at Tabitha
- Skip, Katrena Anton's friend with colon cancer
- 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
- Tim Murphy, a veteran with memory issues
- 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
- People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine

