

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeter/Usher: Katrena Anton

January 19, 2025
Human Relations Sunday

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Stacey Lienemann
Lector: Jan Malone

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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aldersgatelinc@gmail.com

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.*



January 19, 2024

Greeting and Announcements (*Joseph*)

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30) “Glorify Thy Name” — arr. Mark Hayes
(11) “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder” — traditional American spiritual

Opening Truth (*Joseph*)

LEADER: Miracles happen

ALL: **when we do whatever Jesus tells us.**

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

LEADER: With steadfast love, God calls our names. Come and feast on the abundance of God’s house.

ALL: **We long to be recognized and affirmed. We are eager for a place of shelter and security.**

LEADER: Feast on the abundance of God’s house. Come to drink deeply from the fountain of life.

ALL: **We are ready to hear the Word of God. We want to be guided by eternal truth.**

LEADER: Reach out to claim the abundant gifts God pours out on us.

The Spirit is eager to inspire and empower each one.

ALL: **When God is generous, we cannot but be grateful.**

When the Spirit calls us, we cannot remain silent.

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

LEADER: Gracious God, whose miracles surround us day by day and whose revelation in Jesus Christ awakens our wonder, let this be an hour of powerful encounter with you in which our gifts are called forth for the sake of your church and for the transformation of your world.

ALL: **Work within us, among us, and through us, we pray, that believing minds may blossom into trusting hearts and helping hands, fully committed to your service. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #140 (red)

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

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

PASTOR: God, we confess that we wrestle with the contradictions in our lives. We want to be humble, yet pride invades us.

ALL: **We want to look good in the eyes of the world. We want what others have and we want more when we have enough. We become envious when others acquire what we want. We admit frustration when we don’t make as much money as our acquaintances. We question your love for us when we see those we consider equal in position or rank gaining material possessions as we struggle. We pray, O God, for a renewal of mind, a right perspective that we may be more like Christ. Amen.**

PASTOR: God does not treat us as heathens, forsaken and desolate. We are welcomed with rejoicing and enfolded by love as people in whose salvation God delights. Let your hearts be lifted up in peace that comes through God’s forgiveness. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: We thank you, O God, for the blessing of life, the celebration of worship and the hope for salvation that we have in you. We pray for those who do not know you, that they may receive the good news of Christ Jesus. We pray to you,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: We pray for those in leadership; internationally, locally and in our church that guided by your wisdom they may plan with insight along with a willingness to shift gears as need be.
We pray to you,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are making important commitments, that they will receive power to see them through. We pray to you,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who need renewal, that they may receive the newness of spirit available in Christ. We pray to you,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who need faith, that they may find you in their seeking. We pray to you,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: We pray for all who are sick or suffering for various reasons and for those who experience fear or anxiety. May they find healing and peace. We pray to you,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: God our Creator, you are always in control of things. Nothing exists and moves without your will. With full confidence in your power, we ask you to hear our prayers of petition which we offer to you wrapped 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 #467 (8:30, red)
Special Music

“Trust and Obey”
“Many Gifts, One Spirit” — *Aldersgate Choir*

Stories of Extravagance (8:30 *Gaylene, Bill N., Nelda, 11 Sheila, Pat Ruth, Dan Smith*)

PASTOR: The Bible is full of stories of God’s extravagance. Here are, in short, three of them. Consider other stories, from the Bible or from your personal life, that speak to you of God’s extravagant love. There was a time when Jesus fed a whole crowd —

VOICE 1: *All I had was a basket, enough to feed my family, and no more besides. A fish or two and fresh bread, and before my eyes, and the eyes of several thousand others, we feasted together on a blessing made real before us. An abundance of heaven from the meagerness of earth. This is love’s extravagance.*

ALL: **God, help us to share your gifts of love with all the world.**

PASTOR: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with some of his closest friends.

VOICE 2: *All we had was Passover bread, unleavened and dry. Yet as it snapped in two at the hands of the Savior, the abundance of heaven exploded with crumbs. The truth poured out of how expensive love is. Not just this once, but every time it is done: the extravagant cost and calling of love for each of us. A story of God’s abundant love through death to life.*

ALL: **God, help us to share your gifts of love with all the world.**

PASTOR: One day, there was a wedding feast in the town of Cana —

VOICE 3: *All we had left were four pitchers. The smell of the wine was rich from within, but they were empty, the wine parted away. But then glasses were filled with new wine, rich and mature. The mutterings about thirst grew into congratulations on quality. The wine was good, and plentiful, but the taste was of heaven. It was an abundance of blessing.*

ALL: **God, help us to share your gifts of love with all the world.**

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

I Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“The Truth about Miracles”

Offertory Invitation (*Joseph*)

What will we give in gratitude for God's extravagance? Who can repay the many gifts we have received with the miracle of life? Let us rejoice in the mission God entrusts to us.

(8:30)

"Jesus, I Am Resting" — Tracey Craig McKibben

(11)

"Be Still, and Know/Be Still, My Soul" — arr. M. Hayes

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 (*John*)

PASTOR: We present these tithes and offerings, generous God, thanking you for the blessings you have bestowed upon us. We ask your blessings on them, that they may truly serve the needs of the congregation and the community.

ALL: **As you have provided for us, may we provide for the needs we encounter near and far thus strengthening your children spiritually and inspiring each person to invest fully in the work you set before us. Increase our desire to be a blessing in the world, that we may ever seek to do all we can for your promised and present realm. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.**

Hymn #2171 (black)

"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: Go forth with praise on your lips. The steadfast love of God will light your paths.

ALL: **We want to offer light and hope to others.**

Daily, we will seek inspiration for this joyous task.

PASTOR: Reach out as listening, caring, healing people.

Your love will become a miracle for someone in need.

ALL: **We pray that God will keep us open to further learning.**

May our humble witness attract others to Christ.

PASTOR: In the name of our Triune God. 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)

"Praise to the Almighty God" — David Paxton

"In Christ There Is No East or West" — African American spiritual

Announcements

Today, January 19

Human Relations Sunday

- 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. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1.
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2.
- 10:00 a.m. Celebrate Jan Malone's Aldersgate Service — Fellowship Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

- Office is closed
- 7:00 p.m. Church Leadership Council — Room 4

Tuesday, January 21

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Women* by Kristin Hannah — Room 4

Wednesday, January 22

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

Thursday, January 23

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:00 p.m. Bridge to Better Living Informational Session — 4230 Pioneer Woods Dr. B. Reserve your spot by emailing Kaye@BridgetoBetterLiving.com.

Friday, January 24

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

Saturday, January 25

- 10:00 a.m. Nebraska Herbal Society — Sunshine Room
- 3:00 p.m. Party — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, January 26

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Middle School/High School Youth Sunday School — Room 1.
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School — Room 2. Taught by Char Haggar and Sheila Kellenbarger
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — Room 4
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Next Monday, January 27

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

Tuesday, January 28

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group "Scams & Financial Exploitations" — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Series "2025 LES Sustainable Energy Program Incentives" — Worship Center and online

Tuesday, February 4

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

7:00 p.m. Lasting Legacy Series — Worship Center and online. Jeannine Bryant from Changing Spaces will help us determine if we’re living in a space that’s right for us along with how to let go of “stuff”.

Wednesday, February 5

1:30 p.m. Book Club *Table for Two: collection of stories* by Amor Towles — Room 4

Saturday, February 8

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Nebraska Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 ‘A’ St.
Choose two workshops from: Positive Immigration Laws for Thriving Nebraska Communities;
A Housing Advocate’s Guide to the Nebraska Legislature;
A Discussion on Sustaining DEI Impact in an Evolving Environment;
The 2025 Tax and Budget Debate in the Nebraska Legislature;
Building Common Ground with Elected Officials to Advance Issues;
Breaking News, How Bills Are Passed. Register online at www.nelegisbrief.org.

Friday, February 14 Valentine’s Day

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 15

8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

Tuesday, February 18

7:00 p.m. Book Club *Table for Two* by Amor Towles — Room 4

Wednesday, February 19

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

- 21 Sandy Gores
 - 22 Penny Siebe
 - 23 Tony Anton
 - 25 Emily Atkinson
- Judy Faubel

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|---------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Dick Easley | Judy Faubel | Dennis Frederick |
| Keller Hustad | Dallas Huston | Laura Marshall |
| Lynda Nordyke | Roxie & Richard Swyers | Zach Steward |
| Jacob | Arlene | John |

Skip, Katrena Anton’s friend with colon cancer
 Jody Anderson, Hayley Jambor’s mother who has a brain tumor
 Sister Judith Healy is the 82 yr. old cousin of Katrena Anton, rehabbing in Omaha after a fall.
 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

