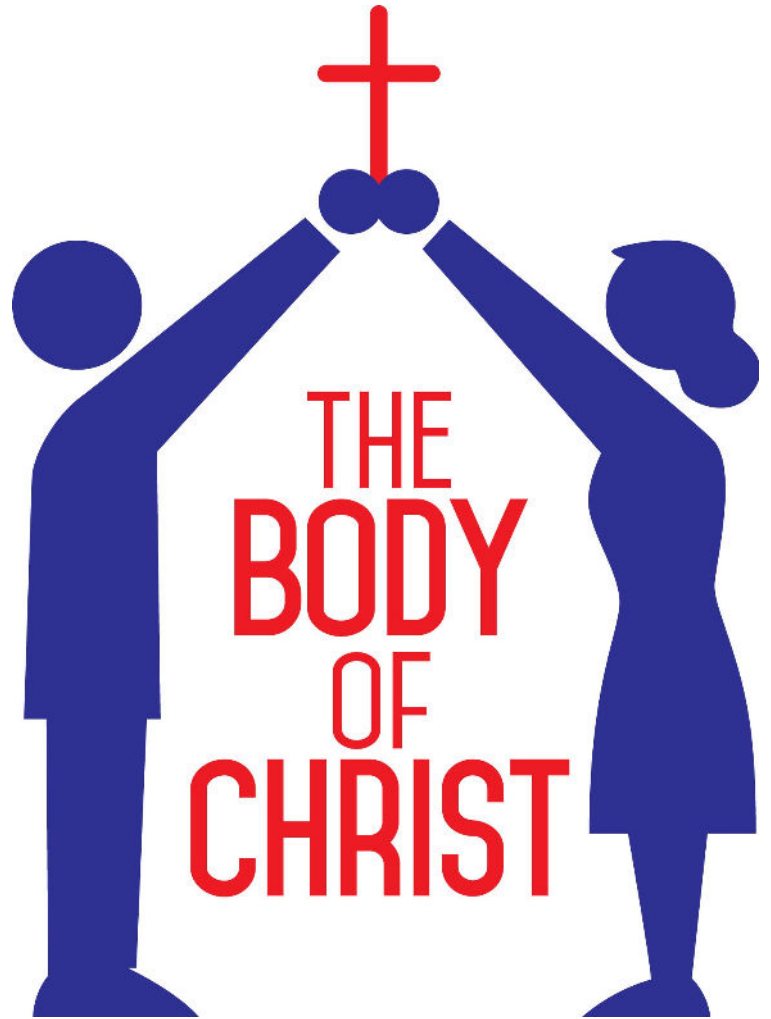


Aldersgate United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeter/Ushers: Doug & Reba Wysocki

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dick Easley
Lector: Sheila Kellenbarger

January 26, 2025
Ecumenical Sunday

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Keyboardist: Deanna Steward
Organist: Mary K. Burns
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
402-489-1510 (church office)
aldersgatelinc@gmail.com

Joseph Rafique, Pastor
402-499-7101 (cell)
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.*



January 26, 2024

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

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30) “Give Me Jesus” — Mark Hayes
(11) “Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide” — arr. Robert J. Hughes

Opening Truth (8:30 *John, 11 Sheila*)

LEADER: The Holy Spirit is
ALL: **upon, within, and all around us.**

Hymn #393 (red) **“Spirit of the Living God”**

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

LEADER: The Holy Spirit is upon, within, and all around us.
ALL: **We come to worship God in this Spirit.**
LEADER: As we commune with God, we know we need one another,
ALL: **and are instructed to honor the good to be found in all people.**
LEADER: The laws and commandments of God are sure, and right and true for all.
ALL: **They are on our lips, and we meditate on them day and night.**

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

LEADER: Spirit of God, who inspired the scriptures and gave them fulfillment in Jesus Christ, open our eyes to the gifts you have entrusted to each one of us and show us how to work together to realize your purposes in our midst.
ALL: **We long to live in a world where mutual caring and support replace competition and violence. Help us to honor one another’s gifts and strive for the greatest of all gifts, the embodiment of your love, Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #57 (red, read vs. 4-5) **“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

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

PASTOR: Who can discern their own errors? Are we innocent of great transgression? Are there hidden faults of which we are unaware? Do we seek to dissociate ourselves from our sisters and brothers? Let us examine ourselves that we may be open to the leading of the Spirit. (silence)
ALL: **Sometimes, God, we do not know what to confess. We seek to keep your law, but the right course is not always clear. We want to follow your direction, but it is hard to discern what is true. Sometimes it is difficult to care about people whose values are different from ours. How can we be one with those who do not share our beliefs? At times, our own faith is shaken — our faith in ourselves and our faith in you. We need your help, God, so our sins will not have dominion over us.**
PASTOR: Do not weep or mourn before the law of God. Rather, let the law revive your soul and enlighten your eyes. The Spirit of God is eager to teach, inspire and strengthen you. Desire to know the purpose of God who is your Rock and Redeemer. Amen.
ALL: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

PASTOR: We dream of a world where everyone has enough and pray that we might live simply and justly to create an equal distribution of your goodness. We ask of you, O Lord,
ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We imagine creation in all its beauty and pray we will walk lightly on this earth living as co-creators and caretakers of your gift. We ask of you, O Lord,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We envision inclusive circles of dialogue, holy conversations of study and prayer that inspire inquiring minds and discerning hearts in all of us. We ask of you, O Lord,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We picture a place of hospitality and pray that we will respond compassionately as we welcome in the brokenness of our world. We ask of you, O Lord,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We believe that God is working towards making everything new — new heaven and new earth in which there will be no pain, no crying, no tears, no death. So, we pray for those who are still suffering these realities, that they be relieved of them and God’s kingdom be fully established soon. We ask of you, O Lord,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We realize our duty of serving others through prayer. So, we pray for all those who are on our prayer list and those who have asked us personally for prayers. May God grant healing and wholeness to the sick and strength and compassion to those who serve them. We ask of you, O Lord,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause) These prayers we ask of you, O Lord,

ALL: **hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: Now, let us wrap up these and all our prayers 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.**

Special Music (11)

“Hold Me, Rock Me” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God’s Word Proclaimed (Joseph)

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

Body Song

Gospel Reading (8:30 John, 11 Sheila)

Luke 4:14-21

LEADER: Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

JESUS: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captive and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.*

LEADER: And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them,

JESUS: *Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*

LEADER: The good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ for our blessings and for our instruction.

Sermon (8:30 John)
(11 Joseph)

“It Is Getting Started”

“Everybody Is Somebody in His Body”

Here are some ideas to consider in preparation for the discussion:

Who do you think is the world’s greatest body builder?

How is God’s idea of bodybuilding probably different than what you may be thinking?

There are two problems that prevent us from becoming united. What do you think they are?

What do you think is the most powerful verse from the Corinthians reading?

There is unity in diversity.

Offertory Invitation (*Joseph*)

We are part of the body of Christ which extends around the world. Together, we form a caring community, united in spite of many differences in appearance, understanding, and function. If others are suffering, we, too, will suffer. When we have the ability to help, it is a joy to do so. May our offerings preach good news, proclaim liberty, and recover among us all the ability to see and hear and respond.

(8:30)

“Deep River” — traditional American spiritual

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: O Great Dreamer: inspire us in your ways, that in our imaginings, hopes and prayers, we become the fulfillment of all that is possible in our world, our neighborhood, this place and in each of us.

ALL: **The gifts of time, talent and treasure that we offer, Lord, represent our lives, our possessions, all that we are and have. We offer them as symbols of ourselves, so that you may take us and bless us and, through the power of your Spirit, shape us into the hands and feet and voices that embody Christ today. In whose name we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #2241 (black)

“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: We have heard God’s words and trust that the Spirit of God is upon us, within us and around us.

ALL: **We are inspired and fired up by that Spirit to be a living body of Christ and brothers and sisters of each other.**

PASTOR: Go forward as praying, witnessing people. The Spirit accompanies us on our journey. May God continue to bless us all. Amen.

ALL: **Amen. 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)

“You Are Mine” — arr. Marianne Kim

“Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome” — arr. Carol Tornquist

Announcements

Today, January 26

- 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 4, episode 4 “Calm Before” — 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.
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Monday, January 27

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

Tuesday, January 28

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 10:00 a.m. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) “My Backyard” — Fellowship Hall
- 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 (SEP) Incentives” — Worship Center and online

Thursday, January 30

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 7:00 p.m. Financial Management Team — zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=88374924760>



Friday, January 31

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

Saturday, February 1

- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Groundhog Lunch — Unadilla U.M. Church, 472 F St. Free will offering for sausage gravy on biscuits, hot dog, ham salad or BBQ sandwich, chicken noodle soup or chili, pie, cake or bars and drinks

Next Sunday, February 2 Groundhog Day

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. Ministry Team meeting — Worship Center
- 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 Haggard and Sheila Kellenbarger
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Fellowship Hall

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 by Friday, January 31.

Friday, February 14 Valentine’s Day

6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall. Beef and noodles by Julie Leach. Please bring a wedding photo if you have one.

Saturday, February 15

9:00 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

Thursday, February 20

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Sunday, February 23

1:30-5 p.m. Laity Summit Watch Party — Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 25

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Series — Worship Center and online

Prayer List

Birthdays This Week

26 Roni & William Vlasnik (35)

30 Rita Mulcahy Ada Schafer

Dick Easley

Keller Hustad

Lynda Nordyke

Jacob

Judy Faubel

Dallas Huston

Roxie & Richard Swyers

Arlene

Dennis Frederick

Laura Marshall

Zach Steward

John

Jody Anderson, Hayley Jambor’s mother who has a brain tumor

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

Jessie Menck, Ken Hartwig’s niece who has bile duct cancer

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

