

# Aldersgate United Methodist Church

**February 16, 2025**  
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany



*“Blessed are you*  
WHEN PEOPLE HATE YOU ...  
BECAUSE OF THE  
**SON OF MAN.**  
*Rejoice in that day ...*  
BECAUSE  
GREAT IS YOUR  
**REWARD IN  
HEAVEN.”**  
**LUKE 6:22-23, NIV**

**8:30 a.m.**

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

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

Greeter/Usher: Dan Smith  
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

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.*



February 16, 2025

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

**Music for Centering Prayer** (8:30)      “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” — arr. Mark Hayes  
(11)      “O God, You Search Me” — arr. Janet Vost

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

LEADER: Blessed are those

ALL:      **who trust in the Lord.**

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

LEADER: Blessed are those who trust in God, who delight to meditate on God’s law.

ALL:      **We long to hear the Word of God and let the Word shape our lives.**

LEADER: Blessed are all who seek the realm of God, who hunger to find meaning in their lives.

ALL:      **We intend to give our best to our Creator, bearing fruit in all we say and do.**

LEADER: Blessed are the ones who serve God with joy, who risk all they have in faithfulness and hope.

ALL:      **We come now to worship and find new life,  
to receive healing and empowerment for our journey.**

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

LEADER: Come, Holy God, to search our minds and try our hearts.

Grant us in this hour wise counsel and clear direction. Touch us, teach us, hear us, heal us.

ALL:      **Send your Spirit to walk with us, as the risen Christ walked with the disciples long ago,  
that your kingdom may become for us a present reality as well as a future hope. Grant us  
living water to quench our thirst and sound preaching to feed our hunger. We ask this in  
the name of Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God forever  
and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn #576** (red)

**“Rise Up, Ye Saints of God”**

**Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance** (8:30 *Jim, 11 Kendra*)      Sara Hargreaves [engageworship.org](http://engageworship.org)

PASTOR: Let us pray.

ALL:      **Gracious God, so often we turn our hearts away from you. Perhaps not willingly, but more  
by chance: we fill our hearts with concerns and keep them close to ourselves. We are sorry  
for the times we have turned our hearts away from you because we fear your judgement, or  
because we are selfish with the things of our hearts and worry about what you will do if we  
share with you. We are sorry and we repent, because we know that you are gracious and  
compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

(pause for personal reflection)

PASTOR: Let us continue our joint prayer.

ALL:      **Thank you for forgiving us God, because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, making a way for  
us to come to you. Now we turn our hearts to you.**

(Please turn your hearts over.)

ALL:      **Lord, search our hearts, we lay them before you. Carry our burdens, share our joys and  
show us where we are not walking your way. We turn our hearts to you. In Jesus name,  
Amen.**

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

PASTOR: Gracious God, you call us to be like trees planted by streams of water. Planted firm in our faith,

we offer you our praises. In our worship, we seek to glorify you — to tell through song and shouts of praise that you are a great and loving God, that you bless us with your presence, and that we are overjoyed to be your people. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: **accept our songs and shouts of praise.**

PASTOR: The fires of your passionate spirit burn within us. As we know, you care for ALL of your people, so we offer to you the concerns that are upon our hearts: for the sick and hurting, the grieving and anxious, the oppressed and downtrodden. We ask you to be with your people, ALL of your people — those we know and those we do not know. Help us all to feel your all-embracing love. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: **compassionate Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: We trust in your presence, loving God. Help us share justly of our resources and be good and faithful stewards of all you have entrusted to us. And help us to share smiles, compassion, concern, forgiveness, and hope with those we meet each day. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: **compassionate Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: Help us never to forget your presence in our lives. May we sense you with us always, and so be moved to live in your ways. Help us to have faith in you, that like trees planted by the water, our faith is grounded in the knowledge of your love for us. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: **compassionate Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace. Guide those who make and administer our laws to build a society based on trust and respect. Erase prejudices that oppress; free us from crime and violence; guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism. Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony. We pray to the Lord,

ALL: **compassionate Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)

Now, let us wrap these prayers in 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 #507 (8:30 red, twice)

“Through It All”

Special Music (11)

“Blessed Shall They Be” — *Treble Chorus*

God’s Word Proclaimed (8:30 *Joseph*, 11 *Stacey*) Luke 6:17-26

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“Topsy Turvy/Upside Down Christianity”

Offertory Invitation (*Joseph*)

Quenched by living water, we are privileged to bear fruit. Contributing our material riches, and time and talent, we discover unanticipated rewards. The blessings we share are multiplied in the service of God. Let us give with joy.

(8:30)

“’Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus” — arr. Marianne Kim

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 (*John*)

PASTOR: Thank you, God, for the consolation you offer, the hunger you satisfy and the bountiful way you have blessed us individually and collectively as your church. Help us now to give joyfully and generously. We ask you to bless both the gift and the giver for your glory. And bless also those who would like to give but simply do not have the means.

ALL: **Now, use what we have shared to provide fulfillment in other lives, among our neighbors,**

**near and far. Grant that this day we will allow you to live through us and give through us. Our hope is Christ in us. In the name of Jesus, our blessed hope, we pray. Amen.**

**Hymn #402 (red)**

**“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”**

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

PASTOR: Go forth into an upside down and needy world to share the water of life and make it right side up.

ALL: **We go out with renewed faith and hope in Christ,  
for his compassionate spirit is in and with us.**

PASTOR: Be assured that the kingdom of God is ours. God knows us, loves us, blesses us in Christ.

ALL: **Christ is the first fruits of those who have died. We shall rise with Christ to new life.**

PASTOR: 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)

“Give Thanks” — arr. Mark Hayes

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” — arr. Sandra Eithun

# Announcements

## Today, February 16

- 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.
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

## Monday, February 17 President's Day

- 7:00 p.m. Church Leadership Council — Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=86856228835>



## Tuesday, February 18

- Church office is closed.
- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Table for Two* by Amor Towles — Room 4

## Wednesday, February 19

- 12:00 p.m. Kiwanis Board meeting — Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

## Thursday, February 20

- 12:00 p.m. Nebraska Caregiver Coalition — webinar. Assisting People to Identify as Caregivers
- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom  
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, February 21

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

## Friday, February 21 – Saturday, February 22

- 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. National Care Ministry Webinar

## Saturday, February 22

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

### Next Sunday, February 23

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour — Fellowship Hall
- 9:45 a.m. *The Chosen* — 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 Haggar and Sheila Kellenbarger
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1:30-5 p.m. Laity Summit Watch Party — Fellowship Hall

### Next Monday, February 24

- 10:00 a.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Planning Team — Room 4

### Tuesday, February 25

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group "Active Aging, Engaging the Power Within You" by Gayle Resh, Southlake Village Rehab & Care — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Series "City of Lincoln Climate Action Plan" with Anna Oetting — Worship Center and online

### Thursday, February 27 – Saturday, March 1

- 11 a.m. Thursday – 4:30 p.m. Saturday National Fresh Expressions Gathering — Atlanta, GA and online

### Saturday, February 28

- 8:50 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Legacy Grandparenting Summit — Lincoln Christian School, 5801 S. 84th. Register at [legacycoalition.com](http://legacycoalition.com) with \$44.

### Tuesday, March 4

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th
- 7:00 p.m. Life and Legacy Planning Series (NUMF) — Worship Center and online.

## Prayer List

### Birthdays This Week

- 21 Zak Hayes
- 22 Trey Schuster

Dick Easley  
Keller Hustad  
Lynda Nordyke  
Zach Steward  
John

Judy Faubel  
Dallas Huston  
Loyal Park  
Jacob

Dennis Frederick  
Laura Marshall  
Roxie & Richard Swyers  
Arlene



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