

# 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: Nelda Boswell

**March 9, 2025**  
First Sunday in Lent

## 11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Larry & Pat Ruth  
Lector: Rod Moore

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**  
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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.*



March 9, 2025

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

**Music for Centering Prayer** (8:30)      “Be Still and Know ” with “Be Still My Soul” — arr. Mark Hayes  
(11)      “Sing Them Over Again to Me” — James Southbridge

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

LEADER: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

ALL:      **“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me.**

LEADER: Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help

ALL:      **Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

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

LEADER: Creator God, open our eyes to see you in the traditions of other religions, in ordinary routines of our lives and the marvelous mountaintop experiences.

ALL:      **Open our hearts and minds to see the ways we can serve you by serving our neighbor who may live across the street, or across the ocean.**

LEADER: As you desire to be our protector

ALL:      **show us how to be the same to those in need.**

LEADER: May we embrace all of your children with the love and care demonstrated by the one in whose name we pray. Amen.

ALL:      **Amen.**

**Hymn #139** (red)

**“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”**

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

MEN:      *God of all people, we confess that we would like to claim your majesty and power for our exclusive benefit. We relish the good things of life and are reluctant to share with those who seem less deserving. We resist the prophets who point out our greed, even when we feel we are being generous.*

WOMEN: *We resent persons in position of authority over us who seem not to have our best interests at heart. We are angry about ones whose evil deeds seem to go unpunished. O God, how can we receive your mercy when we are so reluctant to pass it on? Help us to center our lives in your love more than on our own desires. Amen.*

PASTOR: God does not cast us off or forsake us but is with us in our suffering and adversity. Even when we live as enemies of the cross, the God of Jesus Christ does not give up on us. Surely there is shelter for us under God’s wings and forgiveness when we have gone our own way. Lift up your hearts in God’s praise with songs and shouts of joy. Amen.

ALL:      **Amen.**

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

PASTOR: Let us use this “Five Finger Prayer” bringing before God the needs of all God’s children including ourselves.      (Pray for different groups of people as you touch each finger.)

Thumb:      pray for those closest to you, your family and friends.      (pause)

Index finger: pray for people who give direction, like teachers, coaches, health care workers, therapists, first responders, etc.      (pause)

Middle finger: pray for leaders in governments, businesses, the church, etc.      (pause)

Ring finger: pray for those who are sick, vulnerable, and most in need. (pause)

Pinky finger: pray for yourself and your own needs. (pause)

Holy and Living God, thank you for teaching us how to pray. Let us use prayer to bless, heal and be your agents on Earth, like Jesus your beloved Son who taught his disciples to pray 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 #2123 (black)

“Loving Spirit”

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

Genesis 12:1-8

Sermon (*Joseph*)

“What Can Christians Learn from the Jews?”

Nicene Creed #880 (red)

Offertory Invitation (*Joseph*)

Through our giving to the church, we build altars for the worship of God, not just in sanctuaries made with hands, but in lives enriched by caring and sharing. We bring our offerings in thanksgiving to God, remembering that we are but temporary stewards over all we possess.

(8:30)

“Jesus Paid It All” — arr. Mark Hayes

(11)

“Lamb of God” — Twila Paris

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. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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

PASTOR: Gracious and giving God, we thank you for your presence in our lives. Like a mother hen who watches over her own, you also watch over us. You carried out your covenant with our ancestors and equally blessed them and us.

ALL: **Receive these gifts as our grateful response to all that you give and may we grow in giving as we recognize how true it is that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” We give thanks for the blessings you share, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Hymn #2146 (black)

“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Be strong and let your hearts take courage. God of Abraham cares for us like a mother hen.

ALL: **Like Abraham our hearts will not fear, for God is our shelter and shield.**

PASTOR: God sends us to places unknown and full of risk. The Spirit provides the resources we need.

ALL: **We live by hope, even when the way is unclear. We seek to be faithful to God’s intention for us.**

PASTOR: Go on your way with Christ as your companion. Seek opportunities for witness and service.

ALL: **We find our example and inspiration in Jesus. In the valleys of every day, we will show God’s care.**

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)

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” — arr. Mark Larkin  
“Hymn to Joy” — Ludvig Van Beethoven, arr. Edward Broughton

**Lenten Study**  
*The Final Days:*  
*A Lenten Journey Through the Gospels*

5:30 p.m. Thursdays  
Room 4



**Lenten Sermon Series**

*Christians at the Roundtable of World Religions*

12:15 p.m. Sunday, March 16  
Sunshine Room

Bring a friend and enjoy  
baked potatoes with your choice of  
toppings and fabulous desserts.

Free-will Donation for the  
Aldersgate General Fund.

- Mar. 9 What Can Christians Learn from Jews?
- Mar. 16 What Can Christians Learn from Muslims?
- Mar. 23 What Can Christians Learn from Hindus?
- Apr. 6 What Can Christians Learn from Buddhists?

At 11 a.m. these Sunday mornings we will briefly review/learn the basic facts of these religions and compare the major similarities and differences to Christianity. There isn't time for a deep study of any of the religions.

## Announcements

**Today, March 9**      **First Sunday of Lent**

- 2:00 a.m. Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 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.
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

**Monday, March 10**

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools" a documentary — Room 4. Pat Ruth, hostess
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=84117874135>



**Tuesday, March 11**

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 7:00 p.m. Life and Legacy Planning Series (NUMF) — Worship Center and online. How can you help Aldersgate or another Methodist church with Kristine Roberts and Sharon Schmidt from the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation

### Wednesday, March 12

- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln A.R.M.S. (Retired Ministers and Spouses) — Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 a.m. Lincoln Women's Connection — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

### Thursday, March 13

- 12:30 p.m. Worship & Prayer Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 5:30 p.m. Lenten Study *The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels* by Matt Rawle — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Financial Management Team — Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVdKzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=85399070280>



### Friday, March 14

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling (Chinese entrée) — Fellowship Hall

### Saturday, March 15

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

### Next Sunday, March 16

- 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
- 12:15 p.m. Potato Bake — Sunshine Room. A free-will fundraiser for Aldersgate's General Budget. Bring a friend and come to enjoy baked potatoes, toppings of your choice and fabulous desserts.

## Prayer List

### Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 13 Joseph Rafique (70)
- 14 Molly & Seth Lienemann (10)

- |                |               |                  |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Dick Easley    | Judy Faubel   | Dennis Frederick |
| Jerry Hanley   | Keller Hustad | Dallas Huston    |
| Laura Marshall | Lynda Nordyke | Loyal Park       |
| Zach Steward   | Jacob         | Arlene           |

- 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

