

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

May 18, 2025
Heritage Sunday

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: Stacey Lienemann
Lector: Harry Kellenbarger

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
Organist: Lynette Boyce
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
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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*Worshippers are welcomed to use their own terminology for God.
If you are considering membership, please contact our pastor, 402-489-1510.*



May 18, 2025

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

Music for Centering Prayer (11)

“Open My Eyes” — Paul Taylor

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

LEADER: *Let us love, not in word or speech,*

ALL: **but in truth and action.**

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

LEADER: *Come to praise God, all you faithful people!
Come, for God welcomes you and offers to draw close.*

ALL: **Praise to God, who rules over all the earth.
Praise to God, who is as near as our next breath.**

LEADER: *Sun and moon and stars shine in praise to God.
God created them and established for each a place.*

ALL: **God has a place for us in this world. We have come that God may instruct and equip us.**

LEADER: *Mountains and hills, trees and animals praise God. Let all the rulers of the earth do so as well.*

ALL: **God provides abundantly for our needs. God makes of one family all who dwell on earth.**

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

LEADER: *God of grace and goodness, we give you thanks for this new day. You have faithfully entered our lives with your unfailing grace, and the newness you bring is a sign of your love. You have given us a new covenant, a new commandment, new teachings with new authority. In this Easter season, we praise you for the new life of the Risen Christ.*

ALL: **Bring your new love to the many in need, your new peace to those in conflict, trust to those who live in fear, your new healing to those who are ill. We are your children. Come to heal our divisions and overcome our prejudices. Come, that we might be loved into discipleship. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn #67 (red)

“We, Thy People, Praise Thee”

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

PASTOR: The God revealed to us in the pages of the scriptures is a welcoming and inclusive God who desires us to love one another. So, we gather to seek removal of all barriers to that love. Come to confess all that separates you from others and from your own best.

ALL: **We admit, holy God, that we find it hard to hear your promise of new life. Even when we are dissatisfied with our lives, it is easier to cling to what we know than to risk the unknown. You challenge us to accept people who are different from us in Christian denominations, religions, race and color, or lower in status, but we are not eager to associate with them. You command us to love one another, but some people are not lovable. O God, melt our defenses so we can accept your love and let it flow through us. Grant us courage to embrace newness. Amen.**

PASTOR: God promises to dwell with us, to ease our pain and wipe tears from our eyes. Dare to trust, for God accepts us as we are, that we might become all we are meant to be. God grants us the opportunity to repent. It is a gift that leads to new life. Accept God's offer of new life in Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer #895 (red, 11 Harry)

JOSEPH: Let there be visions again — Signs and wonders of how life might be, a brief glimpse into the mind of God that sees what our eyes fail to see; the particular, strange beauty of folk like you and so different from me.

JOHN: *Let there be dreams again — voices and pictures of a world renewed, heaven and earth blessed and beautified, fit for God, made ready to be something that lacks violence, hatred and division where folks like you and folks like me find a way to be together.*

JOSEPH: Let there be miracles again — healings and sharing of all that we are or might become, a weaving of the world's many strands, differences of race, color and creed, telling creation's story in all its splendor that all folks whoever they are, witness to the wisdom and love of God.

JOHN: *Let there be peace again — brothers and sisters bonded across the seas, weapons left to rust, words of hate left in the past, the will of God for all humanity lived, not whispered, spread abroad to all folks for the greening of earth.*

JOSEPH: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)
God is creating a new heaven and a new earth each day — the former things have and will pass away, no more mourning or crying or pain shall be there. Until it all comes to completion, let us continue to pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words 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 #2226 (black, 8:30)

Special Music (11)

"Bind Us Together"

"Kyrie Eleison"

"Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven" — *Aldersgate Choir*

God's Word Proclaimed (*Joseph*)

(8:30 *John*, 11 *Harry*)

Acts 11:1-18

John 13:31-35

Sermon (8:30 *John*)

(11 *Joseph*)

"Here You Go"

"The Eleventh Commandment"

Offertory Invitation

JOSEPH: God has called us to a ministry of service: water for the thirsty, comfort to those who grieve, healing for ones in pain, acceptance for persons. This is the time to offer our time and strength as well as money, that God's will may be realized among us.

(8:30)

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

(11)

"Were You There?" — traditional spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

KEITH: *We present these AEDs to be consecrated to the glory of almighty God and for service in this church in honor, memory and gratitude to the following families: Shirley Hanley, Ruby Minert, Frankey, Gordon and Alan Ostland and Mary Schuerman.*

JOSEPH: We accept these AEDs as a sacred trust and will guard and use them reverently and with thankfulness to their donors. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit we consecrate these AEDs to the glory of God and for the good use of any person in need.

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 (*Keith*)

Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept and bless these gifts of our hands as symbols of our devotion. Grant us your blessing, as we have consecrated these gifts to your

glory, that they may be an enduring witness of your care and compassion toward all your people, and that our lives may be consecrated and blessed in your service as we use them. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns as one God forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn #2223 (black)

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Commissioning and Blessing (*John*)

PASTOR: We go out as disciples of Jesus Christ. The world will recognize us by our love.

ALL: **Love has created us and makes us whole. We grow in love when we share love.**

PASTOR: God is the Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.

God refreshes us daily with the gift of living water.

ALL: **We have been baptized with water and the Holy Spirit.**

We are ambassadors of love to all we meet.

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)

“Bind Us Together” — arr. Mark Hayes

“Give Me Jesus” — arr. Mark Hayes

THE ALDERSGATE MISSION:

To transform lives and prepare disciples through the compassionate love of God.

THE ALDERSGATE VISION:

To welcome everyone to a faith journey in a vibrant world.

Announcements

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Today, May 18 Heritage Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org or by searching YouTube for Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 1-5 p.m. Graduation Open House -- Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 19

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

Tuesday, May 20

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Picnic — Smith home
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Funny Story* by Emily Henry — Room 4

Wednesday, May 21

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4. Tie quilts for missions.
- 6:00 p.m. Ugandan Cathedral Roof Fundraiser — Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 6001 A St. Featuring Burnt Biskits (guitar and banjo music), special guests: Bishop Patrick Wakula of Uganda and his wife Florence and American & African finger foods.
- 7:00 p.m. Ride of Silence — Jane Snyder Trails Center

Thursday, May 22

- 12:30 p.m. Prayer and Worship 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
- 7:00 p.m. Financial Management Team — Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE91cFhndExNVDkzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=85399070280>



Friday, May 23

- Church Office is closed
- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Next Sunday, May 25

- 8:30 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 2-4 p.m. Abisha Rafique Graduation Open House — Sunshine Room
- 5-10 p.m. Party — Sunshine Room

Tuesday, May 27

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group “Planning Ahead for the Financial and Legal” — Fellowship Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Interfaith Power & Light — Worship Center. Conversations about supporting faith communities’ efforts to reduce their energy use, proposed Green Amendment for Nebraska, Nebraska Youth Climate Summit and community gardens. Also music and desserts to share.

Tuesday, June 3

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St. Seniors fellowship over lunch ordered off the menu.
- 7:00 p.m. Lasting Legacy Series with Larry Ruth discussing Power of Attorney, Do Not Resuscitate and Organ and Tissue Donation — Worship Center and online.

Wednesday, June 4

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Hang the Moon* by Jeanette Walls — Room 4

Wednesday, June 4 – Saturday, June 7

Great Plains Annual Conference — Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kansas

Friday, June 13

- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling (butter chicken) — Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 17

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Hang the Moon* by Jeanette Walls — Room 4

Wednesday, June 18

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, June 19 Juneteenth

- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

18	Nelda Boswell (80)	Dan Ruth and Sara Barr
20	Aaron Nordyke	Aleta & Don Stone
21	Dave & Sandy Lightle	
22	Eric & Ginger Lanum	
23	Char & Tom Hagggar	Keller Hustad
24	Dallas Huston	Karen Stone

Dick Easley	Judy Faubel	Merrilee Faubel
Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston	Laura Marshall
Lynda Nordyke	Loyal Park	Zach Steward
Maggie Struble	Jacob	Arlene



John

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

Elaine Fetsch, Kitty Anton's sister who starts chemo on 5/12/25

Family of Dennis Frederick who died 5/12/25

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