

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

May 4, 2025

Native American Ministries 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: Carol Clymer

11:00 a.m. Service

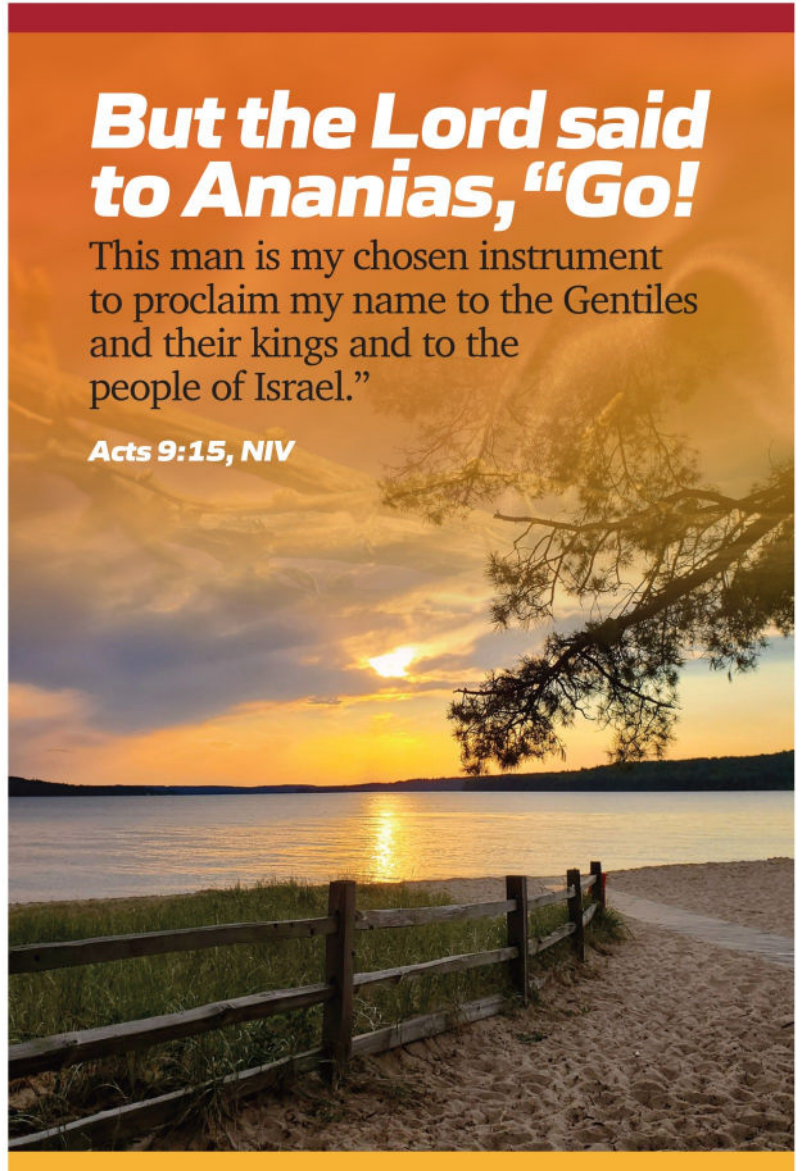
Greeters/Ushers: Dick Easley
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Director of Music: Julie Clopper-Smith
Keyboardist: Deanna Steward
Organist: Lynette Boyce
Digital Media Specialist: Nancy Taylor
Administrative Assistant: Stacey Lienemann
Child Care Attendant: Katie Softley
Custodian: Scott Hoyt

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go!"

This man is my chosen instrument
to proclaim my name to the Gentiles
and their kings and to the
people of Israel."

Acts 9:15, NIV



**Aldersgate
United Methodist Church**
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Joseph Rafique, Pastor
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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.*

Music for Centering Prayer (8:30)	“I Sing Praises” with “Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises” — arr. Carol Tornquist
(11)	“Barcarolle” — Tchaikovsky

LEADER: God is good,
ALL: **All the time.**
LEADER: All the time,
ALL: **God is good.**

LEADER: Walking in the footsteps of Native brothers and sisters from our past, we sing, we pray, and we listen for their songs of hope.

ALL: **Their words show us endurance overcomes hardship, for these diverse peoples from many tribal nations are still here. God has been with them through the generations.**

LEADER: Made in the image of the Creator, these original settlers sowed seeds and tended this land. They harvested with the cycle of the moon and the seasons of the Earth.

ALL: **Their progeny is still with us — our coworkers, our friends, our neighbors.**

LEADER: They have endured much hardship — from broken promises to war to policies set by the government to racism all around them.

ALL: **We celebrate how their faith has helped an embattled people overcome the greed and insecurities of their white neighbors over the centuries.**

LEADER: Bound in spirit to one another, through the rich stories of people connected to our shared Creator God, we seek relationship, yearn for grace, and strive for balance in all we do.

ALL: **Together we worship the risen Christ. Together we stand as God's Creation with hopeful hearts that we can be reconciled to each other as Jesus reconciled us to the Father.**

and revised for the Great Plains Conference by Rev. Tony Serbousek and Todd Seifert.

LEADER: Creator God, as you have gathered us in generations past, lead and guide us this day as we seek your wisdom and your vision for all people — especially this day for Native brothers and sisters as we celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday. Give us eyes to see one another as you see us — people of one God, connected to one another and to you.

ALL: **In all our relations, and in your son Jesus, give us ears to hear the wisdom of the elders and the laughter of our children. Give us words of blessing and healing for a hurting world. Open our hearts and lead us on the path of peace. We stand together on sacred ground with grateful hearts, knowing that the One who promises is faithful and true. Amen.**

PASTOR: God, we come before you in a spirit of prayer, knowing that our world is hurting. We know you have great compassion for all your people, and that we are dear to you. We know you have created a safe place, a refuge, for those who need it. Guide them to it, we pray. There is a place for those who mourn and for those who hurt, a place of comfort and a place of healing: for those we

have lost to illness, and those we have never known. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: There is a place for those who hunger and thirst, a place of banquets and grace: for farmers trapped in unfair trade, families dispossessed. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: There is a place for those imprisoned for belief and justice, a place of freedom and full lives: for mothers of the disappeared, fathers exiled. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: There is a place for those oppressed and downtrodden, a place of liberation and justice: for children of sectarianism, families divided. For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause) For them we pray to the Lord,

ALL: **Lord, hear us.**

PASTOR: Hear all our prayers, loving God, and answer according to your will and purpose. This we ask in the name of the risen Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Hymn #347 (8:30, red)

“Spirit Song”

Special Music (11)

“In Remembrance of Me” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God’s Word Proclaimed (*Joseph*)

Acts 9:1-20

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

John:21:1-6, 9-17, 19b

Fresh Start (8:30 *Kathy*, 11 *Keith*)

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When Jesus met Peter on that beach, after Peter had denied knowing him three times,
Jesus didn’t: confront him and make him feel small;

hold a grudge for years;
ask him to grovel and plead in the sand;
order him to work hard for his forgiveness.

When Peter met Jesus on that beach, after he had denied knowing him three times,

Jesus asked him three times: ‘Do you love me?’
and then he gave him a new start, a fresh beginning.
‘Come, be my disciple,’ he said, ‘follow me.’

When we meet Jesus each morning, after another day of ups and downs,
Jesus doesn’t confront us and make us feel small;

hold a grudge for years;
ask us to grovel and plead in the sand;
order us to work hard for our forgiveness.

Instead, Jesus asks us again: ‘Do you love me?’
even with the little love we have, and he offers us a new start, a fresh beginning.
‘Come, be my disciple,’ he says, ‘follow me.’

Sermon (8:30 *John*)

“He Is an Insight I Have Chosen”

(11 *Joseph*)

“A Fishing Trip to Remember”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

One of the traditions of the Muscogee/Creek Nation is when their churches celebrate Holy Communion, the Communion elements are brought into the worship by some of the women of the church. Using women represents the women who went to the tomb and they were the first to proclaim Jesus’ resurrection.

Invitation to the Prayer of Confession (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

We pray to you, Great Mystery — and giver of life. We come to you feeling so blessed. We come to you with sins to confess and in moments of fear. We look for comfort, we shed our tears.

ALL: **We pray to you, our loving God. We ask for cleansing of our hearts and minds. We ask you to anoint us with loving hands, in our efforts to bring peace and tranquility. We ask for courage; we ask for humility.**

PASTOR: We pray to you, O God our protector — O Holy, Holy Spirit. We ache in our hearts for all those in pain. We have sinned by ignoring, we are in disdain. And we seek your guidance as we explore changes we can make to open new doors.

ALL: **And we pray to you, Great Spirit, Creator of this universe — that as we reflect and pray this special time, you will move us to action and answers we will find that can help native peoples with the issues we face.**

PASTOR: So, we pray, Precious Spirit, as the eagle awaits to take our prayers to your heavenly gates, for strength to give of ourselves what we can to the original, the indigenous people of this land. This we ask, this we pray, this very special day. Amen.

Adapted from the United Church of Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: **And also with you.**

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

PASTOR: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PASTOR: It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

PASTOR: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given to you. Do this in remembrance of me.” When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

ALL: **And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ’s offering for us as we proclaim the mystery of faith. Christ has died; Christ has risen; Christ will come again.**

PASTOR: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray 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.**

Sharing the Bread and Cup

(The offering plates are between the front row of chairs.

Please bring your offering when you come forward to receive Communion.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts and Self

PASTOR: Thank you, caring God, for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son. All that we are is gathered into the heart of Christ — nothing and no one is excluded. Through this unconditional love the brilliance of Christ's community shines out.

ALL: **O God, remind us that all of our days are designed by you. Take us where we are and abide with us day by day through the remainder of this year . . . and beyond. Grant us the privilege to be a blessing to others, especially to the Native American Ministries, with the gifts loaned us as your holy people. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn #378 (red) "Amazing Grace"

Commissioning and Blessing

PASTOR: Rise and go where God directs. Your caring may be the answer to someone's prayer.

ALL: **We will extol our God in word and deed. We will reach out to our neighbors with love.**

PASTOR: Blessed are those who believe without seeing and trust without proof.

ALL: **Blessing, honor, glory and power be to our God.**

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) "Great Is the Lord" — Jay Rouse
(11) "God of Our Fathers" — George W. Warren

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

Today, May 4 Native American Ministries Sunday

- 7 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Marathon — Memorial Stadium – Holmes Lake and south to 48th & Nebraska Parkway
- 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.
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. Kaiser Huskey Graduation Celebration with Pizza Lunch — Sunshine Room. 2-4 p.m. Open House
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Association — Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 5

- 6:00 p.m. P.E.O. Picnic — Sunshine Room

Tuesday, May 6

- 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Lincoln General Election — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Life and Legacy Planning Series with Julie Masters discussion a death plan — Worship Center and online

Wednesday, May 7

- 9:30-11:45 a.m. Savvy Seniors Empowerment Seminar — St. Mark's U.M. Church, 8550 Pioneers Blvd.
- 12-3 p.m. Learn the Warning signs: Alzheimer's & Dementia — St. Mark's. Lunch is provided. RSVP at www.nesavvyseniors.com or 402-499-8147
- 11:30 a.m. Lasting Legacy Awareness Event — Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn
- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Funny Story* by Emily Henry — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center

Thursday, May 8

- 12:00 p.m. Nebraska Caregiver Coalition “Seven Pillars of Successful Caregiving: Things No One Tells You” — webinar. Register online at www.go.unl.edu/caregivers
- 4:00 p.m. Staff/Parish Relations Committee — Room 4
- 5:00 p.m. VFW 131 Potluck — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Financial Management Team — Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3267768816?pwd=bE9lcFhndExNVdKzNkZFUEdnSFFyQT09&omn=85399070280>



Friday, May 9

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Lee's Chicken, 1940 W. Van Dorn
- 1:30 p.m. Mission Teams Organization — Room 4
- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling (sloppy joes) — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 10

- 11:00 a.m. Citizen's Climate Lobby — Sunshine Room

Next Sunday, May 11 Mother's Day

- 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
- 10:45 a.m. Choir Warm-up — Choir Room
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
- 2:00 p.m. A Musical Adventure by the Waverly Area Community Band — Waverly High School Auditorium

Next Monday, May 12

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith — Room 4. Please bring a photo or some reminder of your mother.
- 6:00 p.m. Delta Kappa Gamma — Sunshine Room
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Room 4

Thursday, May 15

- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, May 17

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast with Joseph Rafique — Room 4

Tuesday, May 20

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *Funny Story* by Emily Henry — Room 4

Wednesday, May 21

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Ride of Silence

Prayer List



Birthdays This Week

6	Abisha Rafique (18)			
8	Kendra Hartwig	Harry Smith	Nate Smith	Marcie Stohlman
9	Madison Lanum			

Dick Easley	Judy Faubel	Dennis Frederick
Keller Hustad	Dallas Huston	Laura Marshall
Loyal Park	Zach Steward	Maggie Struble
Jacob	Arlene	John

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

Merrilee Faubel is to have cancer surgery April 29.

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

Lynda Nordyke has a broken collar bone

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.

Laird Ruth had open heart surgery on 4/23/25.

Ross Teske and his missionary work in Talavera de la Reina, Spain

People in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine