

Aldersgate

United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeters/Ushers: Larry & Pat Ruth

June 1, 2025
Ascension Sunday

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Karl Schwabauer
Lector: Alane Wahlstrom

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

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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.*



June 1, 2025

Welcome and Announcements (8:30 *John, 11 Alane*)**Music for Centering Prayer** (8:30)
(11)

“I Love to Tell the Story” — arr. Ted Smith
 “Make Us Holy, Make Us Whole” — Mark Friedman

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

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

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

LEADER: Clap your hands, O people, shout to God with loud voices.
 ALL: **Why should we cause such noise?**
 LEADER: Sing to God, Lord the Most High, ruler of all.
 ALL: **Why should we cause such noise?**
 LEADER: It is our God who chooses us, shielding us from everything.
 ALL: **Ah, we can clap; we can shout; we can sing. For God is good indeed!**
 LEADER: Give praise to our God, sing praises.
 ALL: **We bring our hands together; we raise our voices; we sing, we sing, we sing.**

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

LEADER: We praise you, God, for your witnesses, past, present and future, who have fulfilled their calling, bearing your name and living your hope in a world in need of grace. Send us out to be your witnesses and do not let us shrink from the job. There are too many wounds needing healing, too many hands needing holding, too many injustices needing rectifying for us to stay silent in our words or in our deeds.

ALL: **Let your Spirit fill us with your strength, courage, wisdom and resolve to do something for those who suffer in any way and not gaze upward only. Help us to bear your good news to all. Support your witnesses around the globe, those who serve you amid threats of violence, and those who serve you with little pay or recognition. In the name of the ascended Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

Hymn #189 (red)**“Fairest Lord Jesus”****Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer #895** (red, *Joseph*)

PASTOR: You are free, Lord: free from the constraints of human existence, outside the limitations of time and space; free to be here with us now, in our worship and fellowship; and free to be with us always; for in your freedom, you have bound yourself to us with a promise: “Lo! I am with you always even to the very end of time.”

We pray, Lord, for those who need to feel you close, who need the assurance of your love, the encouragement of your Spirit. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against, who are mocked because of their faith or race or color. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

PASTOR: We pray for those who are imprisoned, who are tortured, who are exiled, because they have fought, struggled and spoken out for the rights of their people. For this we say:

ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: We pray for those who are destitute, who are hungry, who are refugees, because of the selfishness and apathy of the world. For this we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: We pray for those who are filled with guilt, who are broken-hearted, who are perplexed, because a relationship has gone wrong. For this we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: We pray for those who are feeling fed up, who are in discomfort, who are afraid, because they are ill in body, mind or spirit. For this we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: We pray for those who are numbed, who are angry, who are desolate, because they have been bereaved. For this we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils. For this we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: We pray at this time of financial turmoil, for those who have lost jobs, those who struggle to pay bills, and those who have the power to affect positive change. For this we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: We pray for those who love the earth and give voice to its needs, its wounds, its potential, that we might be drawn into a deeper communion with God's creation of which we are but a part. For this we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: What prayer needs would you like to lift up? (pause)
 For all of these and our other prayers, we say:
 ALL: **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**
 PASTOR: Be with us all, Lord: in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you. Be with us all, Lord: in our periods of doubt and despair; and in our times of happiness, health and loving. Be with us all, Lord: until that time when in your Kingdom of Love our joy will know no end. And until then we will continue to pray 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 #156 (red)

"I Love to Tell the Story"

Looking Up (8:30 *John*, 11 *Alane*)

(based on Acts 1)

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(Leader is looking up. Pastor joins him/her.)

PASTOR: What are you doing?

LEADER: *Looking up.*

PASTOR: What are you looking for?

LEADER: *I'm expecting someone.*

PASTOR: Who are you expecting?

LEADER: *I'm waiting. For Jesus.*

PASTOR: Didn't he give you anything else to do?

LEADER: *Oh yes. But he'll be back soon.*

PASTOR: How long have you been waiting?

LEADER: *About . . . (looks at watch) uh . . . (thinks, pause) 2000 years.*

PASTOR: 2000 years!

LEADER: *Give or take.*

PASTOR: That's a lot of waiting. What else did he ask you to do?

(Leader pulls out a piece of paper and hands it to Pastor. Pastor unfolds it. It is a very long list.)

Just one or two things then.

LEADER: *One or two.*

PASTOR: Hadn't you better get started?

LEADER: *Oh yes. Soon.* (continues looking up. Pastor shrugs and starts to walk off.)

Where are you going? (Pastor holds up the list.) *Careful. You don't want to miss Jesus.*

PASTOR: Well, maybe I'll bump into him in some of the things on this list. (leaves)

LEADER: *Hang on! Wait a minute! Bring that back! What's on that list?*

God's Word Proclaimed (8:30 John, 11 Alane) Luke 24:44-53

Sermon (Joseph)

"The Power to Look Up"

Sacrament of Holy Communion (John)

PASTOR: The Lord is 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: Lift up your hearts. Give thanks to the God of tent conversations and daily, living bread! Holy One, in the beginning, You labored to hold back the chaos and create. You, beyond all time, space and comprehension, worked to make a home for us. And while we left Your garden in shame to travel the wilderness, still You could not stay away. You longed for us. You loved us and, imperfect as we were and are, for us You left the garden to camp out with us. To meet with us. To have a relationship with us. Just as we are. Your love is great! And nothing could keep us from it. So, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

ALL: **Holy, holy, holy 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: Gracious God, by your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are Your people, declaring Your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, He promised to be with us always, in the power of Your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night before His suffering and death, Jesus called to His imperfect disciples, and He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And when supper was over, He took the cup and gave thanks to You, gave it to the disciples, saying: "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: **In remembrance of the way He defied the distortions — in celebration of the way He stayed with us in difficulty, even death and kept following us no matter where we went — we offer ourselves. With great thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, we join in the work of Jesus in this everyday world and proclaim the great mystery of our faith: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

PASTOR: Pour out Your Holy Spirit, O God, on us and on these gifts. May we know You in the bread and cup. May we be redeemed and renewed for the next step of our call toward the heavenly banquet: Your Kingdom here on earth just as it is in heaven. For all creation, through Jesus, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, we offer all these things for the honor and glory of You, almighty all-loving, ever-calling God. Amen.

ALL: **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (Joseph)

PASTOR: The bread of heaven gives life to the believer. Receive the bread, eat and live.

ALL: **We'll turn to God daily for nourishment and give thanks with grateful hearts.**
 PASTOR: The bread of heaven gives life to the world. Pass on the gift with joy to all near and far.
 ALL: **We are thankful to God for the gift of life. With love we will share it with all.**
 PASTOR: The bread of heaven is holy and pure. 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. Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.
 ALL: **I do not presume to come to this, your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. I am not worthy that you should receive me, but give your word and I shall be healed, through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.**
 PASTOR: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
 ALL: **Amen. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**
 PASTOR: Amen.

Sharing in the Bread and Cup

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

PASTOR: Thank you God, for feeding me with the real manna, the body and blood of your Son. Grant that like a beggar, through my words and deeds I may tell others where the bread of life is to be found.
 ALL: **Grant that my spirit be strengthened by the love received through those who have passed before me and through this church and through my family and friends. May I use my strength and all that I have, to help those who need me. In the name of Jesus, I ask. Amen.**

Hymn #383 (red, vs. 1-2, 4)

"This Is a Day of New Beginnings"

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: We have been not only called but equipped for sainthood.
 ALL: **We are amazed that God chooses us to be his witnesses and assures us of the strength we need to make a difference.**
 PASTOR: God's promises are not empty rhetoric; God is a constant presence and faithful support.
 ALL: **God sustains us when times are most difficult and renews us through our faith community.**
 PASTOR: Grace to us and peace from God, our Mother and Father, and from the Sovereign Jesus Christ. 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)

"He Is Exalted" — arr. James Koerts
 "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" — arr. Mark Hayes

Announcements

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Today, June 1

Ascension 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
- 11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center

Tuesday, June 3

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 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

Thursday, June 5

- 12:30 p.m. Prayer and Worship Service — Theater, Legacy Estates, 7200 Van Dorn

Friday, June 6

- 8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4
- 11:00 a.m. Honey Do Club Brunch — Room 4

Saturday, June 7

- 9:30 a.m. Piano Recital — Worship Center

Next Sunday, June 8

Pentecost

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Fellowship Hall

Next Monday, June 9

- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees — Zoom

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

Saturday, June 21

- 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4
2-4 p.m. Rockin' with the 80's Birthday Party — Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, June 24

- 1:30 p.m. Caregiver Education Group "The Value of Love in Caring for Others" by Julie Masters — Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m. Life & Legacy Planning "Dealing from Afar with Deaths of a Parent" by Jill & Kendra Baisinger — Worship Center and online

Sunday, June 29

- 8:30 & 11 a.m. Hymn Sing (Rafique Family Favorites) — Worship Center

Tuesday, July 1

- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.

Wednesday, July 2

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Start with Hello* by Shannan Martin — Room 4

Sunday, July 6

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship and coffee — Fellowship Hall
11:00 a.m. Worship with Pastor Matt Borland preaching — Worship Center and online
12:15 p.m. Welcome Matt hot dog potluck — Sunshine Room

Friday, July 11

- 6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 13

- 10:15 a.m. One Shot Choir — Choir Room

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

- 1** Glenda & Rod Moore
2 Mindy Lanum
6 Reba Wysocki

Dick Easley
Keller Hustad
Lynda Nordyke
Maggie Struble

Judy Faubel
Dallas Huston
Loyal Park
Jacob

Merrilee Faubel
Laura Marshall
Zach Steward
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
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

