

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



8:30 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church

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

June 29, 2025

Hymn Sing

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Dan Smith
Lector: Julie Clopper-Smith

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**
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)
402-483-7250 (home)
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.*



June 29, 2025

Welcome and Announcements (8:30 *Joseph, 11 Julie*)

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

PASTOR: God is good.

ALL: **All the time.**

PASTOR: All the time.

ALL: **God is good.**

Hymns #2025 (black, *Nosheen's favorite*)

#400 (red, vs. 1, 3, *Samavi's favorite*)

#174 (red, *Nosheen & Joseph's favorite*)

"As the Deer

"Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"

"His Name Is Wonderful"

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

LEADER: We dwell in a land God has loaned to us. Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

ALL: **We come with gladness to worship God. We enter God's presence with joyous song.**

LEADER: The first fruits of our labor belong to God. Rejoice in the privilege of sharing God's bounty.

ALL: **God had made us, and we belong to God. We are the sheep of God's pasture.**

LEADER: The God of peace greets us in this time of worship. Enter with thanksgiving and heartfelt praise.

ALL: **We thank God for his compassion to liberate us.**

We praise God for calming the storms in our life.

Hymn #381 (red, vs. 1-2, 4, *Joseph's favorite*)

"Savior Like a Shepherd"

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

LEADER: Our baskets are full, gracious God, with the bounty you have provided. Our hearts are full of thanksgiving and praise. We are eager to meet you here, to learn from you, to be changed by you, to become more fully the people you intend for us to be.

ALL: **Show us, we pray, how to do the work you have planned for us. Equip us as your faithful stewards. We want to celebrate your bounty, share it with those who have less, and together learn to live as responsible, compassionate people. Help us in Jesus' name we ask. Amen.**

Hymn #140 (red, *Nosheen & Joseph's favorite*)

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

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

PASTOR: Like lost sheep, we stray from the good shepherd. We become aliens to the realm of God. We accumulate advantages over others and resist any lessening of our special privilege. A gentle voice summons us to confession.

ALL: **O God, we like to think we have nothing to confess. If our thoughts are pure, our actions are kind, and our thanksgiving genuine, have we not lived up to your standards? Yet you call us to put you first in all things, and we have not done that. You call us to be peacemakers, but we do little more than try to avoid conflict. You call us to a passionate faith and compassionate sacrifice, and both are difficult for us. Feed us, God, with food that endures for eternal life and quench our thirst with life-giving water. Amen.**

PASTOR: Do not worry. The God in his love forgives you, guarding your hearts and minds. Let your thoughts center on all that is true, honorable, just, pure and commendable. Keep on doing the things you have learned. God's transforming spirit dwells with those who seek to be faithful. Amen?

ALL: Amen.

Hymn #377 (red, vs. 1-2, 4, *Joseph's favorite*) **"It Is Well with My Soul"**

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

PASTOR: You are free, Lord: free from the constraints of human existence, outside the limitation 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 other 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 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.**

Hymns #723 (red, *Nosheen's favorite*) **"Shall We Gather at the River"**
#593 (red, vs. 1-2, *Rafique family favorite*) **"Here I Am Lord"**

Sharing (*John and Joseph*)

Hymn #2146 (black, vs. 1-2, *Joseph's favorite*)

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

Offertory Invitation (*John*)

The Bible speaks of first fruits offered before the altar of God. How would our life change if our first thoughts on receiving a paycheck were of how we could honor and thank God? What if we always linked our material concerns with the spiritual? Does our gratitude begin to match God's generosity?

8:30

"How Beautiful" — arr. Lloyd Larson

11

"Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart" — arr. Victor Labenske

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 (*John*)

PASTOR: We rejoice in this opportunity to thank you, gracious God, with a portion of the bounty you provide for our use. We reach out for meaning and purpose in our unsatisfying lives. As we share materially in the work of your church, we are on a spiritual quest to discern your will for us and our world.

ALL: **Thank you for pointing us beyond our needs to think of the needs of others. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.**

Hymn #261 (red, vs. 1-2, *Konpal, Samavi & Abisha's favorite*)

"Lord of the Dance"

Farewell to Our Pastors (*Kathy, Lay Leader*)

KATHY: It is sadly time to say farewell to Pastor John and Pastor Joseph. John, will you please join me? Pastor John, we thank you for your ministry here at Aldersgate during the last few years, and the ways you have shared the love of God and the good and bad news messages of the Bible.

JOHN: *Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to share with you through Sunday services and preaching.*

KATHY: We wish you continued joy and power in serving the Lord and ministering at Newman. Pastor Joseph, will you please join me? Pastor Joe, we thank you for your eleven years of ministry here at Aldersgate. We have appreciated the ways you reflect the joy of the Lord, the heart of Jesus, the fruit of the Spirit. You have touched our lives in many ways and helped us in our ministry.

JOSEPH: *I thank you, the members and friends of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here, and the many ways you have touched my heart.*

ALL: **We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask for your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave with your departure.**

JOSEPH: *I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God. I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you and for your new pastor.*

KATHY: Nosheen, will you please join us? Nosheen, we have been richly blessed by your presence and your love for us. Thank you for being Christ in a human form.

NOSHEEN: (opportunity for Nosheen to comment)

KATHY: Let us pray together.

ALL: **Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

KATHY: Now, please stand as you are able for our next hymn.

Hymn #557 (red, vs. 1, 4)

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

Commissioning and Blessing (*Joseph*)

PASTOR: Rejoice, for Christ is your strength. His presence brings peace to our hearts and minds.

ALL: **We can do all things in Christ. We have much to share with the world.**

PASTOR: God who has blessed us, commissions us for service.
Shout and sing for joy; praise God in all you do.

ALL: **God has renewed and refreshed us this day.
God’s strength will be our song wherever we go.**

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen. (Numbers 6:24-26)

ALL: **Amen.**

Benediction Response

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again” — *Aldersgate Singers*

Postlude #102 (red, *Rafique family favorite*)

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Announcements

.....

Today, June 29

- 8:30 a.m. Hymn Sing (Rafique Family Favorites) — 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. Farewell John Goldrich & Rafique Family — Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 a.m. Hymn Sing (Rafique Family Favorites) — Worship Center

Tuesday, July 1

- 9:00 a.m. Artisans
- 11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer's Café, 5600 S. 48th St.

Wednesday, July 2

- 10:00 a.m. Lasting Legacy Team — Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *Start with Hello* by Shannan Martin — Room 4

Thursday, July 3

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

Next 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 grilled hamburgers and hot dogs — Sunshine Room. If you are able, please bring a side dish to share.

Friday, July 11

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

Sunday, July 13

- 10:00 a.m. One Shot Choir — Choir Room

Monday, July 14

- 1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith with Brianna Morris — Room 4

Tuesday, July 15

- 7:00 p.m. Book Club *James* by Percival Everett — Room 4

Wednesday, July 16

- 1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, July 17

- 2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — Zoom

Saturday, July 19

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Tuesday, July 22

- 1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group "What Caregivers Need to Know about Dementia Behaviors" — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Earth Steward Ministry — Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 5

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

Wednesday, August 6

1:30 p.m. Book Club *James* by Percival Everett — Room 4

Friday, August 8

Committee Budgets due to the Financial Management Team

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

Sunday, August 10

U.M. Student Day

10:00 a.m. One Shot Choir — Choir Room

1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith — Fellowship Hall. All Aldersgate women are invited.

Saturday, August 16

9:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast — Room 4

Tuesday, August 19

7:00 p.m. Book Club *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton — Room 4

Wednesday, August 20

1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, August 21

2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Tuesday, August 26

1:30 p.m. Lincoln Caregiver Education Group "Helping Find the Right Accommodation for Your Loved One" — Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Earth Stewardship Ministry — Fellowship Hall

Prayer List

Anniversaries and Birthdays This Week

29 Kevin Hanley Teena Keslar

3 Andrew Smith

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

Richard Rockenbach in Las Vegas with 2 cerebral hematomas

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, Iran and Palestine

