

Aldersgate United Methodist Church



What is joy if it does not bring us to sing praises?

9:00 a.m.

With Pastor John Goldrich serving
Newman U.M. Church
Videographer: Nancy Taylor
Song Leaders: Dan and Kara Steward
Greeter/Usher: Bill Nelson

11:00 a.m. Service

Greeter/Usher: Pat Ruth
Lector: Stacey Lienemann

January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Ministers: All of Aldersgate's Members
Pastor: Joseph Rafique
Keyboardist : Deanna Steward
Organist: Jan Malone
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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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.*



January 29, 2023

Greeting and Announcements (9:00 *Joseph*, 11:00 *Stacey*)

Music for Centering Prayer (9) "I Sing the Mighty Power of God" — arr. Pepper Choplin
(11) "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" — arr. P. Keveren

Hymn #170 (red)

"O How I Love Jesus"

There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

2. It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea.

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

3. It tells of one whose loving heart can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part that none can bear below.

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!

WORDS: Frederick Whitfield, 1855

MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody

Call to Worship (9 *Joseph*, 11 *Stacey*)

PASTOR: Jesus taught, "Blessed are the poor in spirit. The realm of God is theirs."

ALL: **We read, "Those who mourn are blessed." Jesus said, "They will be comforted."**

PASTOR: "The meek will inherit the earth. The merciful will obtain mercy."

ALL: **"All who hunger and thirst for righteousness," Jesus said, "will be filled."**

PASTOR: "Blessed are the pure in heart and the peacemakers; they are God's children and will see God."

ALL: **"Those persecuted and falsely accused are blessed." Even in the face of evil, we will rejoice.**

Opening Prayer (9 *Joseph*, 11 *Stacey*)

PASTOR: Let the mountains hear our voices raised in prayer and praise, wise and holy God. We gather in this sacred place to honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign.

ALL: **We give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness and invite us to share in life at its fullest and best as disciples of Jesus. We want to accept your invitation so our lives may be a blessing to the world and lead others and us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

Hymns #369 (red)

"Blessed Assurance"

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
 angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
 This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
 this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
 watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
 This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
 this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

WORDS: Fanny J. Crosby, 1873

MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873

#133 (red)

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
 Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
 O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
 Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
 I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms.
 Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887

MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

Prayer of Confession and Words of Affirmation (John)

PASTOR: Church, Paul in I Corinthians, chapter 1, writes that the conventional wisdom is not the way of Christ. Keep that in mind as you make your confession. (silence)

ALL: (after the sound of the bell, begin to read) **We have heard it said, “It is just common sense. Self-protection at all costs. Conquer or be conquered. Charity always begins at home”; and we often believe without thinking.** (silence — bell)

We have heard it said, “Of course, our culture is superior. Warheads make for peace and security. Wealth will buy happiness. Celebrities are role models”; and we often believe without thinking. (silence — bell)

We have heard it said, “Nothing can be done to change that. The poor will always be with us. I am not my brother or sister’s keeper. Tears are for women and children”; and we often believe without thinking. (silence — bell)

God of non-convention, grace us with openness to hear the wise and lyrical voice of Jesus anew. May our way of seeing, thinking, acting and responding be changed in the light of Jesus’ great love of you and the world of your making. Amen.

PASTOR: Blessed ones, the God who gathers us together with words of peace and hope, is the same God who renews grace and peace within us now. We are a loved and forgiven people. Amen?

ALL: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

PASTOR: God of all goodness, by glimpsing something of your vision of a just and merciful world, we become acutely aware of how much inhumanity and suffering still exists in the world. It would

overwhelm us if it were not for the tender beauty and hope that arises each new morning and shimmers from the heavens at night. And so, from graced places of gratitude and wonder we pray for Earth staggering under the weight of global warming and deforestation,

ALL: **together may we find another way.**

PASTOR: For people staggering under the weight of poverty, violence and loss,

ALL: **together may we find another way.**

PASTOR: For nations staggering under the weight of pride and a need to impose their will,

ALL: **together may we find another way.**

PASTOR: And for the Christian Church staggering under the weight of seeming irrelevance within secular cultures,

ALL: **together may we find another way.**

PASTOR: God of all, honor the desires in our hearts and may they flourish within the people of grace and compassion we seek to be as we 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 #367 (9:00 red)

“He Touched Me”

Shackled by a heavy burden, neath a load of guilt and shame,
then the hand of Jesus touched me, and now I am no longer the same.
He touched me, O he touched me, and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know, he touched me and made me whole.

2. Since I met this blessed Savior, since he cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise him; I'll shout it while eternity rolls.
He touched me, O he touched me, and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know, he touched me and made me whole.

WORDS, MUSIC and ©: William J. Gaither, 1963

Special Music (11:00)

“Lift Your Light” — *Aldersgate Choir*

God's Word Proclaimed (9 *Joseph*, 11 *Stacey*) Micah 6:1-8

Hymn #374 (red, vs. 1-2, 4)

“Standing on the Promises”

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

WORDS and MUSIC: R. Kelso Carter, 1886

Gospel Lesson (9 *John*, 11 *Stacey*)

Matthew 5:1-12

Hymn #3101 (green)

“Love Lifted Me”

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more;
but the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
from the waters lifted me; now safe am I.
Love lifted even me! Love lifted even me!
When nothing else could help. Love lifted me.
Love lifted even me! Love lifted even me!
When nothing else could help. Love lifted me.

2. Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
he will lift you by his love out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea, billows his will obey;
he your Savior want to be—be saved today.
Love lifted even me! Love lifted even me!
When nothing else could help. Love lifted me.
Love lifted even me! Love lifted even me!
When nothing else could help. Love lifted me.

WORDS: James Rowe
MUSIC: Howard E. Smith

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

PASTOR: The poor struggle to put food on the table, the meek are bullied in the schoolyards, the mourners find no comfort in hollow words, and peacemakers are publicly ridiculed by those who should be emulating them.

ALL: **So, as we offer our gifts to you, Gracious God, we pray you would use them to bring blessings to all in this world. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

Hymns #310 (red)

“He Lives”

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
and just the time I need him, he's always near.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

2. In all the world around me I see his loving care,
and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
the day of his appearing will come at last.

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
none other is so loving, so good and kind.
He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

WORDS and MUSIC: Alfred H. Ackley, 1933
© renewed 1961 The Rodeheaver Co.

#2282 (black)

"I'll Fly Away"

Some glad morning when this life is o'er,
I'll fly away, fly away; fly away; to a home on God's celestial shore,
I'll fly away, fly away, fly away. I'll fly away, fly away,
O glory, I'll fly away, fly away, in the morning.
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away, fly away, fly away.

2. When the shadows of this life have gone,
I'll fly away, fly away; fly away; like a bird from prison bars has flown,
I'll fly away, fly away, fly away. I'll fly away, fly away,
O glory, I'll fly away, fly away, in the morning.
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away, fly away, fly away.

3. Just a few more weary days and then,
I'll fly away, fly away; fly away; to a land where joys shall never end,
I'll fly away, fly away, fly away. I'll fly away, fly away,
O glory, I'll fly away, fly away, in the morning.
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away, fly away, fly away.

WORDS and MUSIC: Albert E. Brumley; © renewed 1960 Albert E. Brumley & Sons,
admin. by Integrated Copyright Group

Commissioning and Blessing (John)

PASTOR: Walk blamelessly before God and do what is right. Speak the truth to all, from your heart.

ALL: **We will honor and fear God each day. May our words and deeds resist all evil.**

PASTOR: Consider your call and live uprightly. Know that God chooses you for a blessing.

ALL: **We are amazed at our calling. We rejoice in the blessings God promises.**

PASTOR: Go now, beloved, as committed followers of Jesus. Feel God's encouragement to be a blessing as you offer blessings with your heart and hands and know that you never, ever go alone. Amen.

ALL: **So be it. Amen.**

Postlude (9)
(11)

"Sunshine in My Soul" — arr. Mark Hayes
"On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand" — arr. J. Rouse

Announcements

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Today, January 29 National Puzzle Day

- 9:00 a.m. Hymn Sing — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgateline.org or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer “Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community” — Room 4
- 10:00 a.m. Children’s Sunday School — Room 2
- 10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1
- 11:00 a.m. Hymn Sing — Worship Center
- 12:15 p.m. 125 Years of Mission and Ministry Team — Fellowship Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom
- Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/812243946?pwd=c1RSQUlOZjYrQjlyZHk0aTZvQzFMQT09>
Meeting ID: 812 243 946
Password: 021075
One tap mobile +12532158782,,812243946#,,1#,021075# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcFkfw3laD>



Monday, January 30 National Croissant Day

- 7:00 p.m. Spiritual Living and Worship Planning Team — Room 4

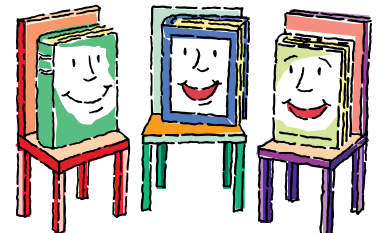
Tuesday, January 31 Backwards Day

- 3:00 p.m. OLLI “My Backyard” with John Woodworth on “Rethinking the Lawn” — Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Serving/Fellowshipping Key Result Team — zoom
- Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86740314949?pwd=NHRpTHcwTXZOCjRHTE1jUldkSk1tdz09>
Meeting ID: 867 4031 4949
Passcode: 832006
One tap mobile
+17193594580,,86740314949#,,, *832006# US
Dial by your location
+1 719 359 4580 US
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcXsxi1kiy>



Wednesday, February 1 Change Your Password Day

- 1:30 p.m. Book Club *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin — zoom
- Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84680892716?pwd=VEZRSEY3U1pXZi9na2hXbm5KV0dWZz09>
Meeting ID: 846 8089 2716
Passcode: 190627
One tap mobile
+17193594580,,86740314949#,,, *832006# US
Dial by your location
+1 719 359 4580 US
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcXsxi1kiy>
- 2:00 p.m. Budget Relief Team — Room 4
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice — Worship Center



Thursday, February 2 Groundhog Day

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

Friday, February 3 **Take a Cruise Day**
8:45 a.m. Take Off Pounds Sensibly — Room 4

Saturday, February 4 **National Homemade Soup Day**
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Groundhog Lunch (choice of sausage gravy on biscuits, hot dogs, ham salad or BBQ sandwiches, chicken noodle soup or chili) — Unadilla U.M. Church, 472 F St. Take out is available. Free-will donation.

Next Sunday, February 5 **National Chocolate Fondue Day**
9:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center and online <https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateunitedmethodistc8463>. Or at your convenience at www.aldersgatelinc.org or on YouTube on the Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Lincoln, Nebraska channel.
9:45 a.m. Adult Study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer “Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community” with Dwight Ganzel — Room 4
10:00 a.m. Children’s Sunday School — Room 2
10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School — Room 1
11:00 a.m. Worship — Worship Center
1:00 p.m. Lincoln Ostomy Group — Sunshine Room
1:30 p.m. Virtual Fellowship — zoom

Tuesday, February 7 **Send a Card to a Friend Day**
11:30 a.m. Grand Generation — Stauffer’s Café, 5600 S. 48th

Friday, February 10 **Umbrella Day**
6:30 p.m. Friday Fling — Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 11 **National Inventor’s Day**
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 ‘A’ St. Cost of \$20 includes lunch. Register for your choice of 2 workshops by Feb. 4 at www.nelegisbrief.org.
10:00 a.m. Bishop Wilson’s Installation — Countryside U.M. Church, Topeka, KS

Monday, February 13 **World Radio Day**
1:30 p.m. United Women in Faith “Who Is this Jesus? What does He have to do with my money?”— Room 4

Wednesday, February 15 **National Gumdrop Day**
1:30 p.m. Stitcheroos — Room 4

Thursday, February 16 **National Almond Day**
12 – 1:30 p.m. Climate Ministry Lunch — Christ U.M. Church, 4530 A St. Free-will donation. RSVP by 5 p.m. Monday, February 13 to davidjlux@gmail.com
2:30 p.m. Care Ministry — zoom

Saturday, February 18
8:00 a.m. Men’s Breakfast — Room 4

Sunday, February 19 **International Tug-of-War Day**
12:15 p.m. Soup Potluck — Sunshine Room

Tuesday, February 21 **National Sticky Bun Day**
7:00 p.m. Book Club *Hamnet* by Maggie O’Farrell — Room 4

Wednesday, February 22 **Ash Wednesday**
7:00 p.m. Worship — Worship Center and online